Hafa Adai!

Summons OK'd for DOC personnel named in inmate's lawsuit. PAGE 2
Two roads near Obyan Beach get new names. PAGE 5

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'It's a time for healing'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

After coming out on top following the gubernatorial runoff election last week, governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios and lieutenant-governor-elect David M. Apatang says it is finally time to start the CNMI community's healing process and rebuilding trust in the CNMI administration.

Although Palacios and Apatang still need to wait a month

See HEALING on Page 4

Lt. Gov. and governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor and lieutenant-governor-elect David M. Apatang preside over a news briefing yesterday.

KIMBERLY ESMORES

Audit finds DPL not enforcing law on operations fund again

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Igisomar says DPL, Finance taking steps to rectify all audit findings by end of FY 2023

An auditing firm's independent report found that the Department of Public Lands is again not enforcing a public law that requires the creation of a DPL Operations Fund and that without that, DPL is unable to produce reliable and relevant financial information.

See AUDIT on Page 4

IPI, CCC arbitration process starts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC made their first appearance before an arbitrator last Wednesday morning.

CCC executive director An-

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom talks about, among other issues, CCC's and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's first status conference before an arbitrator, during CCC board's monthly meeting at the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai last Wednesday.

Settlement reached in lawsuit vs IPI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's many creditors have settled with the casino investor and has sought dismissal of its suit in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

IPI and Ping Shun Corp. filed a joint motion last week to ask the district court to dismiss with prejudice Ping Shun's breach of contract lawsuit against the

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In cities across Europe, officials are wrestling with a choice as energy prices have gone up.
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NATION
A small plane carrying two people got stuck in live power lines Sunday evening in Maryland.
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OVERDRIVE
The 2023 Toyota Crown returns to the U.S. market as a replacement for the 2022 Toyota Avalon.
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Local

Summons OK'd for DOC personnel named in inmate's lawsuit

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has ordered the U.S Marshals Service to summon Department of Corrections officers who are named in a lawsuit filed by an inmate who alleges that his Eighth Amendment right was violated.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has approved Lin Zhou You's application to proceed with his complaint against DOC officers who allegedly subjected him to cruel and unusual punishment, leading to his assault in the hands of another inmate. Lin submitted his application as an indigent (*forma pauperis*).

The court also ordered the U.S Marshals Service to issue the summons for the named defendants in Lin's suit.

"Having reviewed Lin's application, the court grants Lin's application to proceed in *forma pauperis*. Moreover, because Lin states a claim upon which relief may be granted, the court directs that the complaint be served with summonses by the U.S. Marshals Services," she said.

Lin, who is serving time for assaulting his girlfriend in 2020, named Corrections Commissioner Wally Villagomez, DOC director Georgia Cabrera, and prison guard Peter Lieto as defendants in his lawsuit.

According to the complaint, Lin said he was sitting on a chair by a table in Pod 2 Section F on Dec. 5, 2020, when inmate Peter Blas assaulted him by choking him on the neck for about 10 seconds during which he was unable to breathe. He said he was a pretrial detainee at the time of the incident but was placed with sentenced inmates.

He also alleged that at the time of the incident, Peter Lieto, who was the section officer, was not at the duty station. Lin said this violated Corrections regulations requiring a duty officer to be present at all times during an activity.

"The defendants were acting under the color of law when they violated [my] Eighth Amendment right against cruel and unusual punishment," said Lin.

Lin also alleged that the defendants' actions violated the United Nations' Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners and violated his rights under the CNMI Constitution.

He said that, as a result of the incident, he suffered trauma and was often taken to the hospital for pain on his hands, head, and fingers. He said he also continues to suffer depression, severe pain, and excruciating headaches.

Lin is seeking compensatory and punitive damages for his injuries and pain and suffering, including emotional distress, in a total amount of $100,000.

Rip currents seen until Friday

The public is being warned that there is a high risk of rip currents from yesterday evening through Friday afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are expected in east facing reefs of the Marianas until Friday afternoon.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. The public is advised to swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

Customs, IPR officers strategize in the fight against counterfeits

SUVA, Fiji—Senior customs and Intellectual Property Rights officers in the region recognize the difficult tasks they have to counter the rise of trade in counterfeits, which is increasingly flooding the Pacific and posing a real and grave threat to the health and safety of our people.

Last week in Lautoka, Fiji, the officers met to discuss ways, including the updating of Intellectual Property Rights laws to stop the trade of counterfeits, which range from clothes, food, medicines, to machinery, pesticides, and electronic gadgets.

"Because counterfeiters are only in that business to take advantage and profit by deceiving the public into purchasing counterfeit goods, they will lower the standards of their inputs to reduce costs and maximize profit," acting head of the Oceania Customs Organization Irma Daphney Stone.

"In lowering these standards, many counterfeited goods pose significant health and safety risks to us consumers. The threats range from counterfeit foodstuff and medicines missing important nutrient or medical ingredients as well as vital car parts such as brake-pads being made from substandard or dangerous materials. Those are some of the real threats.

"In terms of food security, fake agriculture products that can easily wipe out a country's production yield. We must be very alert at the borders to stop these counterfeits from entering our countries."

As seen in global trends, financial proceeds generated from counterfeiting and piracy operations also fund other criminal activities including the illicit drug trade.

The challenges for customs and IPR officers in the region include policing IPR infringements in the absence of appropriate laws and having the appropriate expertise to recognize counterfeits at the borders.

The workshop was supported by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Australian Border Force, who shared experiences and international best practices.

"In order to get our house in order, first and foremost we need to have a legislation framework nationally. We are glad to note most of our members have an IPR legislative framework and for the few who do not have there is a recognition to work on this. We also acknowledge the importance of not only having our customs officers in the workshop but having our legal officers and national IPR offices included. This has strengthened the network as collaboration with national agencies is needed to embed the framework in place. It will not be easy as our members

See CUSTOMS on Page 4

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01 Saipan Tribune was among the **most frequently used** and **trusted** local news sources among CNMI residents surveyed

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66% of CNMI residents surveyed reported using Saipan Tribune **"often"** or **"all the time"** as a local news source

02 **72%** of CNMI residents surveyed perceived the Saipan Tribune to be **"trustworthy"** or **"very trustworthy"**

03

NEWS USE AND PERCEPTIONS
Use and Perceived Trustworthiness of Media as Sources of Local News*

*Source:
i Minagåhet – Ellet: Reporting the Truth in the Northern Mariana Islands by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council
A study regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Mariana Islands

https://www.nmhcouncil.org/mediasurvey2022/

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'Pelosi's office was one of the first to call after Yutu hit'

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said over the weekend that the office of U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi was one of the first to call his office to ask what he needs and how can she help after Super Typhoon Yutu struck and devastated the CNMI in October 2018.

"In matters large and small, she has never forgotten that the Marianas and all the insular areas are part of the United States, our people members of the American family," said Sablan in his *e-kilili* newsletter.

Pelosi

The delegate said Pelosi, a Democratic leader, has been a guiding figure during his 14 years in the U.S. Congress.

The House speaker has now announced she will retire from any leadership role in the 118th Congress, beginning in January 2023, although she will continue to represent the people of San Francisco.

Pelosi, who is the face of House Democrats for two decades, made the announcement after Republicans take control. She said for her, the hour has come for a new generation to lead the Democratic caucus that she so deeply respects.

The delegate said Pelosi's long tenure as leader of congressional Democrats and historic significance as the House's first female speaker is rooted in her constant attention to the needs of the American people.

Sablan said he has been honored to serve with remarkable men and women during his tenure, but none is more remarkable than Pelosi.

"Few have had a more enduring and positive impact on our nation as she," he said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CNMI DOL maintains strong partnership with US DOL

CNMI Department of Labor officials attended a two-day State Administrator's Meeting with key officials from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration in San Francisco, California, from Nov. 15 to 16, 2022.

Various topics from the meetings included ETA regional and national goals and priorities, unemployment insurance, and addressing UI backlogs, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access in the public workforce system, business services and sector partnerships, and policy development, monitoring, and technical assistance.

According to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, the State Administrator's Meeting was successful "because it provided the opportunity to address the CNMI's workforce priorities with federal officials and allowed interaction between federal officials and state and territory officials, but most of all, delivered critical takeaways in addressing workforce issues in the CNMI."

Accompanying Benavente was Frances Torres, director of the CNMI DOL Workforce Investment Agency; and Eugene Tebuteb, CNMI DOL director for Employment Services. ***(PR)***

Back row (left to right): Nancy Taylor, DOL ETA, director, Special Initiatives and Demonstrations; Nick Lalpuis, DOL ETA, San Francisco regional administrator; Frank Stluka, DOL ETA, director, Workforce Investment; Eugene Tebuteb, CNMI DOL, director, Employment Services; and Bob Kenyon, DOL ETA, director, Unemployment Insurance. Front row (left to right): Steve Malliaras, DOL ETA, manager, Division of Workforce Security; Annie Leonetti, DOL ETA, deputy administrator; CNMI Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente; Frances Torres, CNMI DOL, director, Workforce Investment Agency; Lorraine Jamison, DOL ETA, manager, Division of Financial Management and Administrative Services; Karen Connor, DOL ETA, manager, Division of Workforce Investment).
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MVA general membership meeting on Dec. 7

The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold its semi-annual general membership meeting on Dec. 7, 2022, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan at 10am. Registration will begin at 9:30am.

Guest speakers will be from the MVA's off-shore offices: MVA Korea in-country manager Sejin Kim and MVA Japan in-country manager Takashi Ichikura.

"After three years, we're pleased to hold out first semi-annual general membership meeting," said MVA acting managing director Judy C. Torres. "The impact of the pandemic on our industry has prioritized the importance of identifying and understanding key trends and changes in both the industry and the marketplace. This meeting will cover market strategies to continue to recover the industry by capitalizing on market opportunities, with emphasis on safety and sustainability."

The meeting cost is $25/person for MVA members and $35/person for non-members and include lunch and light refreshments. Payment may be made at the MVA office at the Gold Beach Hotel building in Garapan or at the door. Seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The MVA also welcomes new businesses, agencies and individuals who want to actively participate in the Marianas' top industry as MVA members. Membership is $100 annually. Benefits include: business listing on the MVA's language-specific websites in Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and English; opportunities for business brochure distribution at MVA offices in the Marianas and internationally; opportunities to participate in travel and trade shows, sales seminars, and FAM tours; nomination and voting rights for the MVA Board of Directors; and the opportunity to be a supplier or contractor for the MVA. New and returning members for fiscal year 2023 can register and pay at the MVA office on Beach Road in San Jose.

To RSVP, to request a membership application, or for more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or call 1 (670) 664-3200. ***(MVA)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23 – 029

Opening Date: November 15, 2022
Closing Date: UNTIL FILLED

POSITION TITLE:	**Renewable Energy Engineer**
DEPARTMENT:	**Executive Director / Renewable Power Planning Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**Starting: $75,000.00 (Commensurate with qualifications and experience) per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Renewable Energy Engineering Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Conducting research to develop new technology for renewable energy production
- Consulting with clients about the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of solar power systems
- Developing a plan to transition to alternative energy sources such as wind and solar power to reduce pollution and dependence on fossil fuels
- Performing analyses of potential sites for wind farms based on factors such as wind speed, terrain, vegetation, and proximity to transmission lines and load centers
- Conducting environmental assessments of proposed construction or demolition sites to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal regulations
- Designing structures such as wind turbines or solar panels, or developing materials such as coatings to improve efficiency of existing designs
- Conducting tests to measure the performance of equipment in real-world conditions and environments
- Conduct energy audits to evaluate energy use and to identify conservation and cost reduction measures.
- Analyzing data from experiments or field observations to identify trends or causes of variation.
- Handles the Project management aspect as designated.
- Responsible for the engineering aspect of the renewable energy planning division.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical, Mechanical, Environmental Engineering or related field and four years of related engineering experience.
Knowledge of: Engineering principles and practices; mathematical, practical application of engineering science and technology; project management principles; construction techniques; safe work practices; applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; reading, understanding, and preparing drawings for construction contracts; preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; interpreting and preparing specifications; estimating construction costs; conducting studies. Able to use computers and related software applications; communicate, interact with co-workers, supervisor, contractors, representatives of other agencies and departments, and the general public to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction; use AutoCAD to prepare plans for utility projects and contracts is a plus. Registration as an Engineer-In-Training in the CNMI, Guam, or any State of the United States is preferred but not required. Applicants licensed as a Professional Engineer in the CNMI, Guam, or any State of the United States is encouraged to apply.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- **Physical Demands:**
  - o Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday and Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(REVISED)

JVA No. 23-013

Opening Date: November 15, 2022
Closing Date: November 30, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant: Electrician**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Generation.

Duties:
- Assists with the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to,incinerators, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks.
- Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities
- Monitoring Plant systems as assigned
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete
- Monitors equipment
- Takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings
- Prepares and submits data and work reports
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily work activities
- Assisting with equipment inspections, cleaning, corrosion control, and painting
- Operating incinerators
- Oil and water separator pump, servicing and preparing oil filters
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing debris and housekeeping
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program Adult School Diploma (AS) and 1 year of experience related to area of assignment. Training and knowledge in operations repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities desired but not required.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Work inside around machinery in operation; in varying degree of temperature in tight or cramped (confined) work spaces, at heights, on ladders or scaffolds, and on slippery or uneven walking surfaces in close proximity to high and low voltage circuits and climbs stairs frequently. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work. Work in environments exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities. Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends and holidays, may be on call for emergency response.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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HEALING

From Page 1

before they officially assume the role of governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, the two said at a press conference yesterday the healing process has already begun.

Palacios shared that he and incumbent Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had a talk following the runoff election last Saturday, with the latter congratulating Palacios and Apatang on their victory. That conversation, Palacios said, was the first step to recovery and healing.

"The governor made a commitment to give us their cooperation during the transition period that we're going to be undergoing in a very short time. We will hopefully begin putting together our transition team in the next few days to maybe a week. It was a long road, and it got nasty at times, but it's now over. Dave and I are very happy that we won this election. Now is the right time for our community to heal from the discord that came from the campaigns. Be that as it may, we can't turn back the clock, but we can certainly move forward and heal the community. David and I, and [Reps.] Tina Sablan and Leila Staffler, will help facilitate the healing in this community from the wounds of the past," he said.

Lt. Gov. and governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios, second from left, and Saipan Mayor and lieutenant-governor-elect David M. Apatang, leftmost, are joined by Democratic Party standard-bearers Reps. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan), second from right, and Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), rightmost, during a press conference yesterday.

KIMBERLY ESMORES

Palacios alo stated that he is also relying on the incoming members of the Legislature to help in the healing process. "I am also very confident that incoming and incumbent members of the Legislature will also help in that regard, because they too, were on the campaign trail for almost a year. I know that they will also help facilitate and help start the healing process in our communities. We look forward to working with everybody, the Senate and the House and, and also the outgoing administration as we transition," Palacios stated.

He also thanked everyone who supported the AD tandem from start to finish, that without them, they wouldn't have made it to victory.

"I want to humbly thank the people of the Commonwealth for their confidence in myself and in Mayor Apatang. It's going to be a challenging road ahead, but I know, deep down in my heart that we're going to do good for the community," he stated.

For Apatang's part, he assured that he intends to uphold the unity pledge he and Palacios signed with the Democratic Party standard-bearers a week ago.

"First, I want to say thank all the people who came out to support the AD team. To you, we have made a commitment, we even signed a pledge and that pledge we will stand by. We will honor it, and we will pursue it. We'll make sure that things are done right for our people in this Commonwealth. We will work hard. I promise you," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

AUDIT

From Page 1

In response, DPL Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar said that compliance with Public Law 15-02 will require the collaborative effort of both DPL and the Department of Finance.

Igisomar said DPL plans on taking steps with DOF to rectify all the conditions of this audit finding by the end of fiscal year 2023, so that both DPL and DOF will be complaint with the law.

The Office of the Public Auditor hired Deloitte & Touche LLC to audit DPL's internal control and compliance for fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30, 2010. The Deloitte report, which OPA released last Nov. 16, said the results of their tests of compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Deloitte informed Igisomar that they identified certain deficiencies in internal control that they consider to be material weaknesses.

Deloitte reached similar findings in its audit of DPL's internal control and on compliance for the fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30, 2019.

With respect to the latest audit, Deloitte said an effective system of internal control over financial reporting includes maintenance of a separate general ledger system that records transactions and generates reliable and relevant information.

The auditor said P.L. 15-02 required the establishment of the DPL Operations Fund, which shall be maintained by DOF.

The law required all revenues received by DPL be deposited into the DPL Operations Fund and that all operational expenses by DPL be paid from that DPL Operations Fund.

Despite this law, Deloitte said, monitoring and timely reconciliation of transactions with DOF is not being performed.

The auditor said DPL did not implement available system controls over the financial reporting process and monitoring control procedures are not established to determine the accuracy and completeness of disbursements processed at Finance.

Deloitte found that DPL has not maintained a separate ledger system since fiscal year 2007.

The auditor determined that revenues received by DPL are not deposited into the DPL Operations Fund.

A general ledger for DPL transactions is maintained by DOF, which is not reconciled or monitored by DOF or DPL.

Cash transactions received and disbursed at DPL are summarized in cash receipt and disbursement journals, which are not recorded in the DOF general ledger.

Journal vouchers posted to DOF's general ledger by DOF personnel are not approved by DPL management.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

LAWSUIT

From Page 1

casino investor.

Prior to filing the motion for dismissal, on Nov. 5, Ping Shun and IPI entered into a settlement agreement and jointly requested that the court issue an order directing the release of $220,000 from the appeal bond that IPI had previously posted in this lawsuit.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the request last Nov. 9.

Ping Shun, through attorney Samuel Mok, stated that his client has received full and complete payment of all amounts required pursuant to the settlement agreement.

Ping Shun said it has received $220,000 from the supersedeas or appeal bond on Nov. 23.

IPI, represented by attorney Kevin Abikoff, and Ping Shun are requesting the District Court for the NMI to have the terms and conditions of their settlement agreement incorporated in the stipulated motion and for the court to retain jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of the settlement agreement.

According to court documents, Ping Shun sued IPI for breach of contract back in June 2020. Reportedly, Ping Shun provided breakfast, lunch, and dinner at IPI's request for thousands of individuals involved in the construction of its hotel-casino project in Garapan as well as IPI's own employees and VIP guests from Dec. 21, 2016, to Dec. 31, 2019. IPI failed to fully pay for these services.

Ping Shun also alleged a breach of residential lease agreement related to the housing for some of IPI's employees.

"IPI failed to pay for damages related to furniture and appliances that were damaged and/or unlawfully taken from the premises prior to the end of the lease term," the lawsuit stated.

IPI also failed to pay for spa services provided to its executives and VIP guests.

Ping Shun asked the court to issue an order directing IPI to pay its outstanding balance in the amount of $462,003.64.

On March 15, 2021, the court issued a decision granting summary judgment in favor of Ping Shun.

On April 6, 2021, the court entered a judgment in favor of the plaintiff against IPI in the amount of $443,900.50 with post-judgment interest.

On Jan. 20, 2022, Ping Shun and IPI asked the court to stay enforcement, with IPI agreeing to secure an appeal bond of $445,000 to secure judgment.

On July 21, 2022, the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a ruling vacating the federal court's judgment and remanding the matter to the same court for further findings.

On Sept. 29, 2022, Manglona issued an order granting partial summary judgment in favor of Ping Shun in the amount of $264,484.25, but denied without prejudice summary judgment with respect to the remaining amounts in the dispute.

On Nov. 5, 2022, the parties entered into a settlement agreement to resolve their dispute.

IPI

From Page 1

drew Yeom informed the CCC board last week that they had their first status conference before the arbitrator via a virtual platform.

Yeom told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he is unable to remember the name of the arbitrator, but that he is a very experienced attorney in the U.S. mainland.

Yeom said the parties identified the issues at hand in summary and that they also discussed the deadlines and procedural rules, among other things.

He disclosed that CCC submitted the requested documents to the arbitrator last Nov. 16.

The executive director said both CCC and IPI sent the agenda items last Nov. 21.

Last Aug. 24, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted IPI's request for a preliminary injunction against IPI to prohibit the CCC from revoking IPI's exclusive casino license.

Manglona issued the order to allow IPI to pursue its right to arbitration. She ordered CCC to participate in the arbitration process.

Last September, CCC board chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero expressed a belief that, in his opinion the arbitration process is just a waste of time and money. Deleon Guerrero said the arbitration decision is not binding, but nevertheless it's a process that they need to accept and need to follow and comply with Manglona's order.

Arbitration is essentially a procedure wherein two parties agree on one or more arbitrators to make a decision in their dispute in order to resolve a disagreement outside of court proceedings.

The parties in this case informed the court last August that the American Arbitration Association has accepted the case of Best Sunshine International and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC against the Commonwealth Casino Commission to serve as a non-binding arbitrator.

According to court documents, BSI and IPI filed their notice of AAA case acceptance last Aug. 17 to notify the court that the AAA International Centre for Dispute Resolution will proceed to administer this arbitration as a non-binding arbitration under the ICDR's International Arbitration Rules.

CUSTOMS

From Page 2

have conflicting priorities nevertheless this work is needed as it is linked to strengthening trade management, revenue collection and at the same time protecting our borders," Stone said.

Kelemete Vahe, CEO of Tonga's Ministry of Revenue and Customs, said the region should be alert that more criminals around the world are moving into the business of counterfeiting and piracy because the business is low risk but high reward for them.

"We are deeply concerned with the trade of counterfeit medicines and substandard medical equipment because this will impact on the health of our people.

"The benefits for criminals far outweigh the risk of getting caught and they continue to make millions of dollars at the expense of legitimate businesses and to the detriment of consumers.

The workshop had participants from Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu, Tonga and Vanuatu and resource experts from the Australian Border Force and the USPTO. ***(OCO)***

Two roads near Obyan Beach get new names

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In a two-part street naming and renaming ceremony, Saipan Mayor and lieutenant governor-elect David M. Apatang unveiled yesterday morning two new street names—Calistro I. Reyes Place and Justice Ramon Villagomez Road—for the roads heading into scenic Obyan Beach.

The new street name in honor of Reyes was previously unnamed and is the dirt road on the left past the Reyes family compound, while the street renamed in honor of Villagomez was previously named Obyan Beach Road.

Besides Apatang and Reyes, others in attendance were Reyes' and Villagomez' friends and family, along with Reps. Ed Propst (D-Saipan), Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan), and Saipan Mayor's Office Street Renaming and Numbering Division staff.

Apatang, before removing the blue silk veil that covered the new street name in honor of Reyes, said that Reyes—a former CNMI Boy Scouts of America director—is known in the Marianas "as the man who wore the uniform and lived by the rules of the boy scouts. In his lifetime, I know Mr. Reyes has and continues to this day to instill honesty, integrity, loyalty, brevity, thriftiness, cleanliness, and respect in our youth. Your service to the boy scouts program in our islands deserve recognition, for you have been a mentor to many youth to become respectful and caring persons. That is not an easy feat."

He added that a site not too far from Obyan Beach is a place "we once knew as the boy scout site. It is a place many youth spend time at, to learn survival skills away from the comfort of home, live with nature to appreciate our very fragile environment and that we must care for it, among many other things."

LEIGH GASES

Family members of the late justice Ramon G. Villagomez along with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Reps. Ed Propst (D-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan), pose under the sign of the renamed street yesterday morning after a street renaming ceremony.

Reyes said he was surprised by the honor, yet "this is heart-touching for me and my family. The piece of land here was dedicated for boy scouting activities and we have a lot of people involved in this development. One…is former justice Ramon Villagomez, [who] has played a good role in helping in the development. And like I said many, many other people, and so it's just fitting and appropriate for every one of us to celebrate, and I hope that this…dedication would not just end over here, but to continue in the development of our youth."

Prior to unveiling the renamed Justice Ramon Villagomez Road, Apatang said the late Villagomez was "a son of Saipan, who grew up with his eight siblings and very hardworking parents, living on what our very precious land and ocean could produce, learning farming and fishing, traveling to a faraway place to get his education, and then coming back to serve and help his island progress."

"There are too many great deeds the late Ramon Garrido Villagomez accomplished in his lifetime. Many saw him that everyone has a chance to grow and become a productive contributing member of our island. His dedicated involvement in many community programs and projects inspired many to follow in his footsteps, and become role models for many youth and young adults, like he was," said Apatang. He "loved the outdoors, and spent weekends and his free time enjoying one of Saipan's beautiful beaches that is just minutes from here. Obyan Beach was his favorite spot to spend time with his family, fishing, and camping out. An avid outdoorsman, his contributions to our island's Boy Scout program yielded many benefits to our youth," added Apatang.

Abraham Villagomez, a police sergeant in the Department of Public Safety and one of Villagomez' sons, said after the unveiling that he was happy "that there's something to honor him and everybody can see it." He recalled the many times that they would go down to Obyan Beach after school to fish almost every day.

LEIGH GASES

Calistro I. Reyes poses with his family under the newly christened street name in his honor yesterday morning after a ceremony led by Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang that was attended by family and friends of Reyes.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Rev & Tax closed on Friday

The Department of Finance's Division of Revenue and Taxation office would like to inform the public that our office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, for staff professional development. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022. ***(PR)***

Water service interruption in Kagman

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022, from 8am to 12pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in Kagman. Customers will experience low water pressure to no water in the affected areas.

This will allow CUC water operators to test the water system in Kagman to determine the cause of pipe breakages in the area. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after the repairs.

For the safety of the men and women working at the repair site, motorists are advised to take alternative routes or proceed with caution as a portion of the intersection on Cha Cha Road and Kagman Road will be closed for the duration of test.

This testing of the system at Kagman is part of the Water Division's project to improve water service and minimize breakages in the waterlines.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

5.0-magnitude quake in Marianas region

At 6:52am on Nov. 28 2022, a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred 21.480°N 144.144°E of Mariana Islands region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. ***(PR)***

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Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition to Appoint General Guardianship for: D.A. Minor Child By: Nina Manglona Petitioner,	**FCD-__ CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0272** **ORDER SHORTENING TIME AND NOTICE OF HEARING**

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, it is hereby ordered that the time for notice of hearing for Petitioner/Respondent's petition be shortened and that the hearing be set on December 5, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 223 A.

Dated this 10th day of November, 2022.

/s/ Wesley Bogdan
Judge

Name: Qianyan Su Fejeran
Address: P.O. Box 503679
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670-783-8787

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition To Correct: Qianyan Su Fejeran Petitioner(s)	FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0423 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on May 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2022.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Attorney for Petitioner: Merced M. Tomokane

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CARMEN OLOPAI TAITANO, Decedent.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0243 AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS Date: December 1, 2022 Time: 10:00 a.m. Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE CARMEN OLOPAI TAITANO OR OF HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Merced M. Tomokane, of Saipan, CNMI,("Petitioner"), with Co-Petitioner Patrick O. Taitano (through his pro se joinder), have petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letters of Administration of the **Estate of Carmen Olopai Taitano**, Decedent. The proposed Administrator is Co-Petitioner Patrick O. Taitano. The attorney for Petitioner Merced M. Tomokane is Attorney Robert T. Torres, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950.The hearing on the Amended Verified Petition for Letters of Administration is scheduled to be heard on the date and time above set forth at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 23rd day of November, 2022.

/s/_____
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

Child care providers learn response planning for emergencies

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seventeen child care providers from two child care centers across Saipan participate in an emergency preparedness training at Evergreen Learning's training center in Chalan Kanoa last Nov. 19, 2022.

Seventeen child care providers from two child care centers across Saipan participated in an emergency preparedness training last Nov. 19, 2022, at the Evergreen Learning's training center in Chalan Kanoa.

The training on Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Natural Disasters and Human-caused Emergencies was conducted by Maricar I. Pena, Evergreen Learning's quality care specialist.

These trainings were made possible through funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care, and CNMI Child Care Development Fund program under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

During the two-and-a-half-hour professional development opportunity, participants were able to identify the new federal requirements and health and safety standards for emergency preparedness and planning, define the different kinds of emergencies, articulate the importance of planning, identify natural disasters and human-caused events that should be addressed in emergency plans by CNMI child-care providers, explore the six steps of emergency planning, apply the new federal standard requirement in the review and revision of their current emergency plan, and also identify the current content list of EPRRP.

The Child Care Reauthorization Act of 2014 requires that all CCDF)Program child care providers must complete preservice training requirements in 12 health and safety topic areas before they are allowed to be left alone to supervise young children. The topics of this training meet two out of the 12 required training. ***(PR)***

HOME FIRE CAMPAIGN

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter partners with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Team, and the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to kick off the Home Fire Campaign in the CNMI last Oct. 22, 2022.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Since 2017, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter and its partners have installed over 1,000 smoke alarms across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota effectively making over 450 homes safer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"In our line of work, every second counts…installing smoke alarms in homes gives families a greater chance of surviving home fires" said Robert Mojica, public information officer with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. "We encourage families to create home fire escape maps and have a designated meeting place outside away from the home where they can wait for firefighters to arrive."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The American Red Cross and its partners are preparing families to act quickly through the Home Fire Campaign. "Through targeted outreach and strategic partnerships, we are connecting with families across the islands and educating kids about the importance of home fire safety and general disaster preparedness" said JD Tenorio, disaster program manager of the American Red Cross.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter along with its partners plan to continue installing smoke alarms throughout Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in the coming months through next year. For more information on how to avail of the free smoke alarm installations, call the NMI Chapter office at 670-234-3459 or send an email to nmichapter@redcross.org.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam/CNMI undergo regional resiliency assessment

SANTA RITA, Guam — U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam participated in the Guam/CNMI Regional Resiliency Assessment Program visit in Guam the week of Nov. 14.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency for Guam and the CNMI nominated the Port of Guam and the Commonwealth Ports Authority to receive comprehensive cyber and physical security assessments. While CISA leads the national effort to understand, manage, and reduce risk to our cyber and physical infrastructure, the U.S. Coast Guard has a regulatory role.

"We are pleased to be at the table with our partners as the RRAP for the Port Authority of Guam kicked off," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of CGFM/SG. "We know how vital the ports are to our way of life here [in] Guam [and] in the CNMI, spreading out further into the region. We have strong and valuable relationships with our local and federal government agency partners, the private sector, and non-governmental partners involved in the assessment."

In addition to attending the kickoff conference, CGFM/SG hosted CISA representatives for a talk on regional operations and local efforts.

The RRAP is a voluntary, cooperative assessment of specific critical infrastructure that identifies a range of security and resilience issues that could have regionally or nationally significant consequences.

"Getting these folks around the table, out on site, talking and understanding this region and our challenges is vital to success," said Simmons. "What is on paper back in Washington, D.C. may not accurately reflect what we know here, so I applaud these professionals for traveling thousands of miles to see it firsthand and talk to the people with the experience doing the work."

The goal of the RRAP is to generate greater understanding and action among public and private sector partners to improve the resilience of a region's critical infrastructure. To accomplish this, the RRAP:

- Resolves infrastructure security and resilience knowledge gaps;
- Informs risk management decisions;
- Identifies opportunities and strategies to enhance infrastructure resilience; and
- Improves critical partnerships among the public and private sectors.

Each RRAP project typically involves a year-long process to collect and analyze data on the critical infrastructure within the designated area, followed by continued technical assistance to enhance the infrastructure's resilience. Individual projects can incorporate various analytic activities and opportunities for valuable information and data exchanges.

"Cybersecurity and port resilience are on everyone's mind out here. We just hosted Gen. Mark Miles and the Defense Information Systems Agency to illuminate the U.S. Coast Guard mission in the region and inform the team of our conditions and challenges. Miles is the Director for Command, Control, Communications, and Cyber Directorate at U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. DISA hosted a tabletop exercise in Guam to review and assess Guam's critical infrastructure and identify areas for improvement in DoD's communications architecture on the island. The port is absolutely a part of that effort as well. These things dovetail and ultimately impact our resilience, commerce, and defense readiness."

As stated by Indo-Pacific Command, the Defense Department committed about $11 billion in funding for military construction projects in Guam over the next five years and to help ensure Guam remains a place from which the U.S. military can fight, if needed, in the Indo-Pacific region. The port is critical infrastructure to support these projects, in addition to receiving nearly 90 percent of Guam's imports.

The culmination of RRAP activities, research, and analysis will be presented in a Resiliency Assessment documenting project results and findings, including critical regional resilience gaps and options for addressing these shortfalls. Facility owners and operators, regional organizations, and government agencies can use the results to help guide strategic investments in equipment, planning, training, and infrastructure development to enhance the resilience and security of critical infrastructure, surrounding communities, and the entire region. ***(USCG)***

U.S. COAST GUARD/CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam and captain of the port for Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Josh Blocker, the unit's port security specialist, host various members from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to discuss the Guam/CNMI Regional Resiliency Assessment Program at the unit in Guam on Nov. 15, 2022. CISA nominated the Port of Guam and the Commonwealth Ports Authority to receive comprehensive cyber and physical security assessments. While CISA leads the national effort to understand, manage, and reduce risk to our cyber and physical infrastructure, the U.S. Coast Guard has a regulatory role.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	POSITION	LOCATION	CLOSING DATE
JVA 23-001	MANAGING DIRECTOR	SAIPAN	UNTIL FILLED
JVA 22-013	STATISTICS SPECIALIST I	SAIPAN	UNTIL FILLED
JVA 22-012	CHIEF ACCOUNTANT	SAIPAN	UNTIL FILLED
JVA 22-011	ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER	SAIPAN	UNTIL FILLED

YOU MAY DOWNLOAD THE EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION FORM AND OTHER INFORMATION AT HTTPS://WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM/ANNOUNCEMENTS/.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The war on Russia's economy is working

Nine months into Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine, the damage done to the world's 11th-largest economy is extensive. Leading Russian banks have been cut out of the global financial system, some $300 billion of central bank reserves are frozen, and hundreds of foreign companies have departed. Parts shortages have hobbled the auto industry and threaten commercial aviation. In the wake of Putin's mobilization order, tens of thousands of young workers have fled the country. An OECD forecast released last week projects Russia's economy will contract by 5.6% in 2023.

The economic punishment inflicted on Russia hasn't stopped the pummeling of Ukraine. But sanctions have weakened Russia's standing as a world power, dissuaded ostensibly impartial nations from aligning with its government and sowed doubts about Putin's leadership among Russian elites. Convincing them to press for an end to the war will require the U.S. and Europe to tighten the squeeze even more.

Since February, sanctions have raised the costs of the war, by reducing Moscow's ability to buy what it needs, while making the market perilous for outsiders. China, India and Turkey are importing Russian crude, but at a steep discount, and Russia has struggled to redirect gas exports once bound for Europe. Russia's imports of technology it needs to sustain its war machine — let alone spark future innovation — have been effectively cut off for months. Never mind that what it can buy, when it comes to electronics components, is now often faulty. Moscow will adapt, but not swiftly.

Even so, for now the direct impact on the war remains limited. Squeezing the world's largest hydrocarbon exporter, one with a hefty current account surplus, requires targeting those exports, a process that is beginning in earnest only now. Moreover, Russians had already suffered a grim decade, with real household disposable incomes peaking around 2012. So while the economy is expected to contract this year by 3.9%, there is less distance to fall. There's also the inescapable fact that Putin is more than willing to sacrifice future economic growth for his personal aims and can easily silence dissent.

Sanctions rarely produce swift political change or an instant end to conflict. With Russia's forces in retreat, it's critical that the West ratchet up the pressure. Most obviously, the U.S. and its allies should continue to arm and financially support Ukraine. They should also encourage Russia's worsening brain drain. At least 350,000 people have already fled Putin's ill-advised mobilization order, causing consumer confidence to plunge. Western governments can accelerate the process by offering more humanitarian visas, added support for Russian students, and incentives for scientists and tech professionals to move abroad. Not only would Western economies benefit, but

See WAR on Next Page

ELON MUSK IS FORCING US TO SHOW UP AT WORK...
AND NOW HE'S TAKING AWAY OUR FREE LUNCHES!
HOW CAN WE BE EXPECTED TO FIGHT THIS KIND OF FASCISM
ON AN EMPTY STOMACH?
STOP CAPITALISM
HITCH

The real reasons your family is sick right now

By FAYE FLAM
BLOOMBERG OPINION

Something is altering the normal seasonal currents of cold and flu viruses. They slowed to a trickle during the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic only to blast through human populations this year. Some public health experts have called it a "tripledemic," but it might even be described as a quadrupledemic.

In the Northern Hemisphere, flu began surging in October, months before its normal season. This year has also seen a steep, early rise in two other viruses, RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) and adenovirus. These normally cause colds, but RSV can be dangerous to young children and has recently led to overcrowding of children's hospitals. Adenovirus is usually mild too, but this month there were reports of the virus putting college athletes in the ICU, and it's been implicated in clusters of dangerous hepatitis cases in children.

Why now? The easy answer is that wearing masks for more than two years drove down the incidence of these viruses, and people subsequently lost immunity — something the popular press has dubbed "immunity debt." But that's unlikely to be the whole story. The circulation patterns of different viruses appear to be influencing each other in a way that's not understood, said Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy and host of a podcast on COVID-19.

"When multiple respiratory viruses are circulating in a given season, one of them will dominate for reasons we don't understand," he said on the podcast. "There's something going on there that can't be just attributed to personal protection (or) distancing."

A few other researchers made a similar observation last week in Science. "Flu and other respiratory viruses and SARS-CoV-2 just don't get along very well together," virologist Richard Webby told the magazine. Or as epidemiologist Ben Cowling of the University of Hong Kong put it, "One virus tends to bully the others."

That means that viral interference might be more of a factor than immunity debt.

Osterholm points out that the same suppression of other viruses happened in 2009 when the H1N1 flu broke out. "For the first time in years, we didn't see other influenza strains like H3N2 and or any of the RSV activity. It just disappeared," he said. "It can't be because of mitigation, because we didn't do mitigation."

He said he also doubts mitigation was all that effective against RSV and flu because it wasn't terribly effective against COVID-19 — more than 75% of children had been infected as of February 2022. Osterholm has pointed to previous research showing that while N95 masks work, there's much less evidence behind the kinds of loose-fitting cloth masks common in school settings (though closing schools likely did perturb the course of other seasonal viruses).

Viral interference might offer a more complete explanation. Our innate immune system includes disease-fighting substances called interferons, which may protect people infected with one virus from getting another. That may be why, as a large study from the University of Glasgow published in 2019 showed, cold viruses sink as flu viruses rise.

Others, such as infectious disease specialist Jeremy Luban of Harvard Medical School, said human behavior is still likely playing a role in our shifting viral currents. Lockdowns, though brief in many places, might have been enough to shift seasonal patterns. And many US schools were closed much longer than businesses. If we dodged one or two seaons of flu, RSV and adenovirus, populations might have less immunity to them later.

He said that might help explain the mysterious clusters of hepatitis that cropped up in 35 countries around the world starting last spring — in some cases, leading to liver transplants. The latest thinking, which came up at a major meeting earlier this month, points to a co-infection of two interacting viruses.

One was the adenovirus and the other an adeno-associated virus. This virus, called AAV2, needs the adenovirus to replicate. In several recent studies, nearly all the children with hepatitis were positive for AAV2, but none of the children in a control group were. Similar infections might have happened before the COVID-19 era, but only became noticeable when adenovirus had an unusual surge after COVID-19 mitigation measures were lifted.

Biologist Andrew Read, who studies pathogen evolution at Penn State University, said he wouldn't rule out discontinued mitigations as a factor in the viral surges we're seeing now. He says it is possible that these other viruses are inherently less transmissible than SARS-CoV-2, so their spread was suppressed for a couple of years by the same measures that failed to contain COVID-19. But it's not known whether a year or two of decreased transmission would have a significant impact on the population's immunity. "We really don't have good data on that," he said.

He said he's particularly concerned about the adenovirus cases which reportedly sent several University of Michigan hockey players to the hospital and at least one to the ICU.

See REASONS on Page 9

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tina Sablan soundly lost once again—and that is a CNMI win

By ROBERT HUNTER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Robert Hunter is a former a former senior policy adviser to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and former Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary.

While Tina Sablan and company have worked overtime to attempt to frame the gubernatorial win by the Palacios-Apatang team as a win for her and Democrats, not only is this thoroughly insulting to the good lieutenant governor and mayor who won the election, it attempts to reframe reality. That reality is that she came out last in a three-way race, and by a large margin.

While she's been able to manipulate various precincts to carry her into House seats, she has been soundly repudiated in her attempts to garner elected positions that require the majority of voters across the electorate. While she has pointed out that 9,022 voted against Gov. Torres in the election—the three-way race of which he handily won by close to a thousand-vote lead—she totally ignores that 10,616 voters voted against her. She suffers from a phenomenon commonly known as self-delusion...a failure to recognize reality. How she strategically interprets the actions of others and what motives she often applies to or accuses others of, she never applies to herself when she does the same thing (or worse). Sablan's efforts to see a wedge driven into the heart of this community, to foment divisiveness, to inject deceit—no matter how well-spoken—has been soundly repudiated, yet again, by the good people of the CNMI. Once again the electorate has spoken loudly and clearly. Sablan's politics of hollow words, baseless accusation, political targeting, perpetual political attack, and sowing divisiveness are not acceptable to the great majority of voters—over 70% or 10,000-plus out of 14,000 in fact. This is certainly a positive takeaway from this election.

I am incredibly proud to have worked for and with Gov. Torres. His accomplishments, from new parks, new programs, recovery from major disasters, to record federal funding for major projects, etc., are exceptional by any measure. I congratulate Lt. Gov. Palacios and Mayor Apatang. They are accomplished and intelligent individuals who have a history of leadership, know politics, and certainly don't need any advice from me. I would simply say, watch your backs. To Tina and company, this is just another avenue to attempt to reframe the reality of their loss, turn your win into her win, and take advantage of a situation to build support for herself for future electoral office.

Personal political positioning and really nothing else, has been Sablan's life's work, and she's proven that she will do whatever is necessary, no matter how underhanded, if she thinks it will benefit her. So just one piece of unsolicited advice and surely one that goes without saying in the case of Tina Sablan... watch your backs.

Peace, harmony, and all the best to Gov. Torres, governor-elect and lieutenant governor-elect Palacios and Apatang, and the people of the CNMI.

Ukraine's victories may become a problem for the US

By HAL BRANDS
Bloomberg Opinion

Hal Brands is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. The Henry Kissinger Distinguished Professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, he is co-author, most recently, of* Danger Zone: The Coming Conflict with China *and a member of the State Department's Foreign Affairs Policy Board.*

Ukraine has notched another big victory in its war against Russian aggression: the liberation of the Kherson without a grueling urban battle. Yet that triumph was met with mixed messages from U.S. President Joe Biden's administration on a very sensitive subject: whether the Ukrainians should begin peace negotiations with Russia.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark Milley, argued that the Kyiv government should seek a settlement before the conflict becomes a stalemate like World War I. Other U.S. officials pushed back, saying that Washington would never force Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to negotiate or make concessions. "Nothing about Ukraine without Ukraine," Biden pledged.

It was a rare display of rhetorical messiness by a relatively disciplined administration, which reflects real uncertainty about four critical questions—not least of which is whether a long war strengthens or weakens the U.S.

For months, Russian forces had been exposed in Kherson, with 20,000 troops holding a vulnerable beachhead on the right bank of the Dnipro River, near where it flows into the Black Sea. The Ukrainians pounced, using U.S.-supplied High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems and other weapons to isolate those forces, and then grinding them down with a methodical offensive. The Russians couldn't sustain their position forever; they withdrew in early November rather than have the isolated, ill-supplied units captured or destroyed.

It was just one in a series of Ukrainian victories since early September, including the liberation of large swaths of territory around Kharkiv in the northeast and the severing of the Karch Bridge from Russia to Crimea. But if the Biden administration seems suddenly conflicted about the course of the war, that's because several key challenges are looming.

First, is Ukraine headed for further gains or a grinding deadlock? On the one hand, the liberation of Kherson has brought Ukrainian forces within HIMARS range of Russia's remaining supply lines into Crimea, while troops freed up by this victory can prepare for new offensives elsewhere.

On the other hand, Ukraine's battle-bruised army may need a rest. It may also face stiffer resistance as Russian forces increase their numbers thanks to an influx of conscripts; shorten their supply lines; prepare trenches and other layered defenses; and dig in for the cold weather ahead. To be fair, the Ukrainians have surprised skeptics before. But given that they have now squeezed Russia out of its most vulnerable positions, the next steps could be harder.

Second, how likely is escalation? Putin has threatened to use nuclear weapons to hold five regions he has illegally annexed since 2014. Ukraine has walked right over those red lines in eastern Ukraine and Kherson. Yet Crimea is more central to Putin's narrative of Russian resurrection; its loss could undermine his political prestige more seriously than any prior reversal. So recent events haven't fully quieted those within the administration who think an imperfect peace may be preferable to even a slight risk of catastrophe.

Third, will the pro-Ukraine coalition hold together? The European allies have mostly been solid; Ukrainian victories have likely ensured international support through the winter. Candid observers, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken, acknowledge that Putin has shown no interest in compromise.

Yet Biden's team still aims to avoid a scenario in which Ukraine is seen to be blocking diplomacy as Europe—deprived of Russian energy supplies—suffers an economically punishing winter. The White House may also be concerned about what a Republican-led House of Representatives will mean for America's position on Ukraine aid come next year.

This is presumably why the administration urged Zelenskyy to retreat from his earlier statement that Ukraine would only negotiate with the next leader of Russia, which had effectively made regime change in Moscow a Western war aim. If Ukraine wants the support necessary to win the war, it must show that it is open to negotiating an end to it.

Finally, does a protracted conflict help or hurt the U.S.? If this war has imposed terrible costs on Ukraine, it has been a strategic windfall for Washington. Russia's military is being reduced to rubble. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is expanding and strengthening its defenses. China is facing greater resistance in the Western Pacific, as Japan, Taiwan and Australia hasten their military preparations. European nations that now see the downsides of dependence on one coercive autocracy are reconsidering their ties with another: Beijing. Amid Putin's serial struggles in Ukraine, assertive authoritarianism no longer looks like the wave of the future.

Yet key officials wonder whether the U.S. has already reaped all the advantages the Ukraine war has to offer. As time passes, the cost may get higher—in distraction from other regions, in scarce munitions consumed, in vulnerability to crises that break out elsewhere.

There are countervailing considerations: A long war that exposes how pitifully inadequate the U.S. defense industrial base has become could force the nation to get serious about rearmament. Still, if the situation in the Taiwan Strait is deteriorating as rapidly as American officials say, then the premium on ending the Ukraine conflict relatively soon may get higher.

Of all the debates and dilemmas lurking behind the recent talk about negotiations, perhaps the most pressing is the fear that Washington just doesn't have all the time in the world.

REASONS

From Page 8

"The idea that there's a problem with young people from adenoviruses — that's really striking," he said. It might be a fluke – the tip of a big iceberg of mild adenovirus cases. But it also might be something more worrisome. "We're in new territory," he said.

That leaves the question of whether all these flu, RSV an adenovirus cases will leave populations flush with interferons that might tamp down the next wave of COVID-19. There is something weird already going on — a new omicron wave called BQ.1.1 has begun, but as physician Eric Topol writes in his newsletter, this is the first new variant that's become dominant without causing a new wave of cases or hospitalizations.

I'm cautiously optimistic that we won't see a massive quadrupledemic this winter, if only because COVID-19 could be crowded out by other viruses. But as we learned just one year ago, when omicron hit, COVID-19 can always hit us with something from left field.

Faye Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering science. She is host of the* Follow the Science *podcast.*

WAR

From Page 8

Russia's labor and skills shortages would intensify.

Europe should further work to close sanctions loopholes. To cite one example, there's evidence that the Russian military is importing home appliances to neighboring countries and using their microchips to make up for the loss of access to Western semiconductors. (Armenia has imported more washing machines from the European Union during the first eight months of 2022 than the past two years combined.) Rigorous action will also be needed to enforce EU crude sanctions and a U.S.-led price cap on Russian oil, which would extend a ban on selling insurance and other services to ships that fail to comply.

Above all, Western governments and their partners need to stick together. Russia's economy is hollowing out, and the war is not going Moscow's way. Putin still thinks Ukraine's supporters will crack first. The West must prove him wrong.

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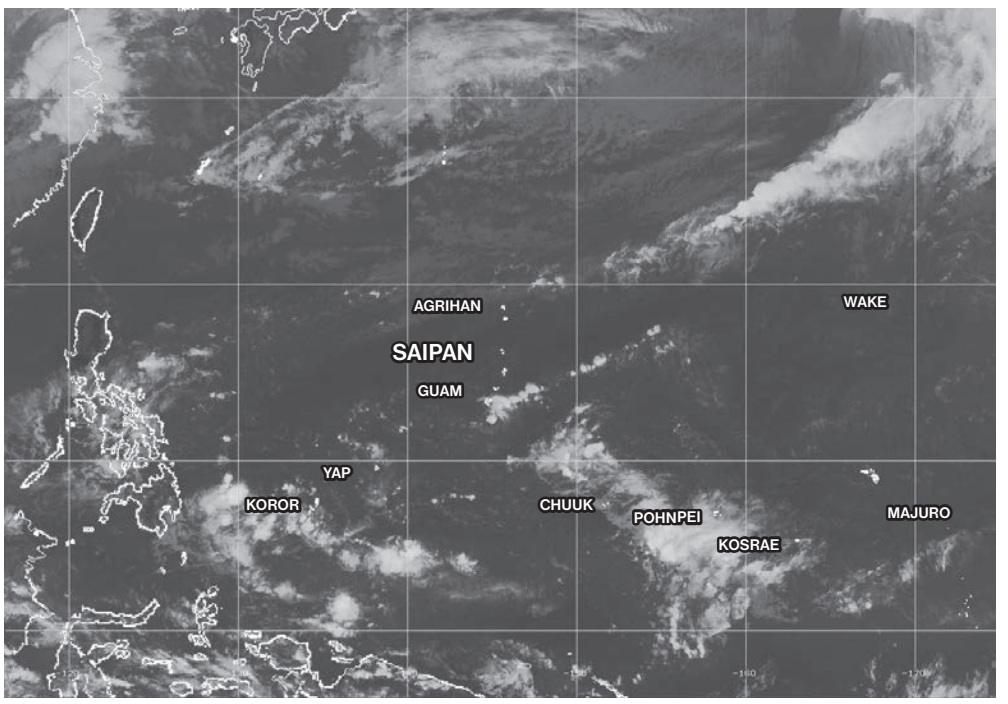
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Scattered showers. Partly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	86° 79°	86° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 10:13 AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery showed isolated showers over the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:32 AM	11:12 PM	-
Wednesday	12:19 PM	-	-
Thursday	12:44 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:17 AM	1:35 PM
Saturday	-	1:17 AM	2:20 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 61°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy/Wind	26° / 15°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	79° / 68°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	78° / 72°
London	Cloudy	48° / 42°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	64° / 49°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 78°
Melbourne	Cloudy	54° / 35°
Miami	Cloudy	82° / 75°
New York	Partly Cloudy	53° / 35°
Osaka	Rain	70° / 58°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	47° / 42°
Busan	Light Rain	68° / 30°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	60° / 44°
Salem	Sunny	65° / 45°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57° / 40°
Seoul	Cloudy	52° / 16°
Tokyo	Showers	70° / 61°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	54° / 35°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:36 AM	Low Tide	-0.55
1:22 PM	High Tide	1.77
6:55 PM	Low Tide	1.20
10:51 PM	High Tide	1.51

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	7:45AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:40PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

OZ624	3:40PM	7:40PM	3, 6
TW308	4:30PM	8:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:40PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:40PM	3, 6
TW307	10:00AM	3:30PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Sober or bright? Europe faces holidays during energy crunch

AP

Local authorities inaugurate the Christmas lighting in the streets of Vigo, Spain, Nov. 19, 2022. In cities across Europe, officials are wrestling with a choice this Christmas.

VERONA, Italy (AP)—Early season merrymakers sipping mulled wine and shopping for holiday decorations packed the Verona Christmas market for its inaugural weekend. But beyond the wooden market stalls, the Italian city still has not decked out its granite-clad pedestrian streets with twinkling holiday lights as officials debate how bright to make the season during an energy crisis.

In cities across Europe, officials are wrestling with a choice as energy prices have gone up because of Russia's war in Ukraine: Dim Christmas lighting to send a message of energy conservation and solidarity with citizens squeezed by higher utility bills and inflation, while protecting public coffers. Or let the lights blaze in a message of defiance after two years of pandemic-suppressed Christmas seasons, illuminating cities with holiday cheer that retailers hope will loosen people's purse strings.

"If they take away the lights, they might as well turn off Christmas," said Estrella Puerto, who sells traditional Spanish mantillas, or women's veils, in a small store in Granada, Spain, and says Christmas decorations draw business.

Fewer lights are sparkling from the centerpiece tree at the famed Strasbourg Christmas market, which attracts 2 million people every year, as the French city seeks to reduce public energy consumption by 10% this year.

From Paris to London, city officials are limiting hours of holiday illumination, and many have switched to more energy-efficient LED lights or renewable energy sources. London's Oxford Street shopping district hopes to cut energy consumption by two-thirds by limiting the illumination of its lights to 3-11 p.m. and installing LED bulbs.

"Ecologically speaking, it's the only real solution," said Paris resident Marie Breguet, 26, as she strolled the Champs-Elysees, which is being lit up only until 11:45 p.m., instead of 2 a.m. as in Christmases past. "The war and energy squeeze is a reality. No one will be hurt with a little less of the illuminations this year."

It's lights out along Budapest's Andrassy Avenue, often referred to as Hungary's Champs-Elysees, which officials decided would not be bathed in more than 2 kilometers (1.5 miles) of white lights as in years past. Lighting also is being cut back on city landmarks, including bridges over the Danube River.

"Saving on decorative lighting is about the fact that we are living in times when we need every drop of energy," said Budapest's deputy mayor, Ambrus Kiss.

He doesn't think economizing on lighting will dissuade tourists from coming to the city, which holds two Christmas markets that attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

"I think it's an overblown debate," he said.

Festive lights, composed of LEDs this year, also will be dimmed from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. in the old city center of Brasov in central Romania and switched off elsewhere, officials said.

The crisis, largely spurred by Russia cutting off most natural gas to Europe, is sparking innovation. In the Italian mountain town of Borno, in Lombardy, cyclists on stationary bikes will provide power to the town's Christmas tree by fueling batteries with kinetic energy. Anyone can hop on, and the faster they pedal, the brighter the lights. No holiday lighting will be put up elsewhere in town to raise awareness about energy conservation, officials said.

Biden eases Venezuela sanctions as opposition talks resume

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration on Saturday eased some oil sanctions on Venezuela in an effort to support newly restarted negotiations between President Nicolás Maduro's government and its opposition.

The Treasury Department is allowing Chevron to resume "limited" energy production in Venezuela after years of sanctions that have dramatically curtailed oil and gas profits that have flowed to Maduro's government. Earlier this year the Treasury Department again allowed the California-based Chevron and other U.S. companies to perform basic upkeep of wells it operates jointly with state-run oil giant PDVSA.

Under the new policy, profits from the sale of energy would be directed to paying down debt owed to Chevron, rather than providing profits to PDVSA.

Talks between the Maduro government and the "Unitary Platform" resumed in Mexico City on Saturday after more than a yearlong pause. It remained to be seen whether they would take a different course from previous rounds of negotiations that have not brought relief to the political stalemate in the country.

A senior U.S. administration official, briefing reporters about the U.S. action under the condition of anonymity, said that easing the sanctions was not connected to the administration's efforts to boost global energy production in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and that the decision was not expected to impact global energy prices.

The official said the U.S. would closely monitor Maduro's commitment to the talks and reserved the right to reimpose stricter sanctions or to continue to ease them depending on how the negotiations proceed.

"If Maduro again tries to use these negotiations to buy time to further consolidate his criminal dictatorship, the United States and our international partners must snap back the full force of our sanctions that brought his regime to the negotiating table in the first place," said Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in a statement.

Chevron said the license granted by the U.S. means the company "can now commercialize the oil that is currently being produced" through the joint venture. " We are determined to remain a constructive presence in the country and to continue supporting social investment programs aimed at providing humanitarian relief."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US FCC bans sales, import of Chinese tech from Huawei, ZTE

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. is banning the sale of communications equipment made by Chinese companies Huawei and ZTE and restricting the use of some China-made video surveillance systems, citing an "unacceptable risk" to national security.

The five-member Federal Communications Commission said Friday it has voted unanimously to adopt new rules that will block the importation or sale of certain technology products that pose security risks to U.S. critical infrastructure. It's the latest in a years-long escalation of U.S. restrictions of Chinese technology that began with President Donald Trump and has continued under President Joe Biden's administration.

"The FCC is committed to protecting our national security by ensuring that untrustworthy communications equipment is not authorized for use within our borders, and we are continuing that work here," said FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, a Democrat, in a prepared statement.

Huawei declined comment Friday. Along with Huawei and ZTE, the order affects products made by companies such as Hikvision and Dahua, makers of widely used video surveillance cameras.

The FCC's order applies to future authorizations of equipment, though the agency leaves open the possibility it could revoke previous authorizations.

Macao awards casino licenses to MGM, Sands, Wynn, 3 others

BEIJING (AP)—Macao has tentatively renewed the casino licenses of MGM Resorts, Las Vegas Sands, Wynn Resorts and three Chinese rivals after they promised to help diversify its economy by investing in non-gambling attractions, the government said Saturday.

The announcement is positive news for owners who have invested billions of dollars to build the former Portuguese colony near Hong Kong into the biggest global gambling center. But the requirement to spend on theme parks, music and sports adds to financial pressure at a time when revenue has plunged under anti-virus restrictions.

Regulators will negotiate final terms before licenses take effect Jan. 1, the office of Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng announced. A seventh bidder, newcomer Genting Group of Malaysia, received no license.

Whole Foods decision to pull lobster divides enviros, pols

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Environmental groups are once again at odds with politicians and fishermen in New England in the wake of a decision by high-end retail giant Whole Foods to stop selling Maine lobster.

Whole Foods recently said that it will stop selling lobster from the Gulf of Maine at hundreds of its stores around the country. The company cited decisions by a pair of sustainability organizations to take away their endorsements of the U.S. lobster fishing industry.

The organizations, Marine Stewardship Council and Seafood Watch, both cited concerns about risks to rare North Atlantic right whales from fishing gear. Entanglement in gear is one of the biggest threats to the whales.

The decision by Whole Foods was an "important action to protect the highly endangered" whale, said Virginia Carter, an associate with the Save America's Wildlife Campaign at Environment America Research & Policy Center.

"With fewer than 340 North Atlantic right whales in existence, the species is swimming toward extinction unless things turn around," Carter said.

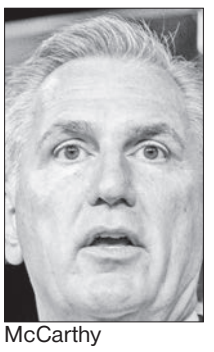
Nation

McCarthy's pursuit of speaker's gavel comes at a high cost

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican leader Kevin McCarthy is in the fight of his political life, grinding through the promises and proposals, cajoling and deal-making necessary to win over reluctant colleagues whose support he needs to become House speaker.

Every new commitment from McCarthy can be seen as a potentially strategic move, intended to quell skeptics on his right flank as he reaches for the speaker's gavel. With a slim House majority in the midterm elections, the GOP leader must solidify his ranks in a sprint for the 218 votes he'll need when the new Congress convenes — each coming at a cost and with no room for error.

"We'll get there," McCarthy said in accepting his party's nomination to run for speaker.


McCarthy

The overtures McCarthy is making, some symbolic, others substantive, provide a snapshot of the speaker hopeful's emerging leadership style. While McCarthy is expected to prevail in his quest for the speaker's gavel, it is destined to come at a political price, setting the tone and tenor of new Congress.

To start, McCarthy has promised to restore committee assignments for far-right Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., after she and another right-flank lawmaker were booted by Democrats over incendiary remarks.

And he has vowed to oust Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., and other high-profile Democrats from their committees in a form of political payback, setting up a divisive House action early in the new Congress.

McCarthy has assured that under his leadership, the House will remove the metal detectors that were installed to prevent firearms in the House chamber; end COVID-era protocols that allowed lawmakers to vote by proxy; and fully reopen the Capitol's limited visitor access since the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection by supporters of the former president, Donald Trump.

And in a dramatic nod to the far-right, McCarthy has threatened an impeachment investigation against Homeland Security secretary Alejandro Mayorkas unless he resigns over the department's handling of the U.S.'s southern border with Mexico.

"McCarthy's problem is, he can't get to 218 without Marjorie Taylor Greene and Paul Gosar and Matt Gaetz," Schiff said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union," referring to the House GOP's most outspoken far-right members. "And so he will do whatever they ask."

The challenge ahead for McCarthy is not unique, as he races to shore up support before the new Congress convenes in January. Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., faced detractors during her own pursuit of the gavel, forced to skillfully pick off the naysayers one by one until she had secured backing.

But the problem McCarthy faces is distinctly Republican, one that almost doomed his most recent predecessors. Paul Ryan and John Boehner both suffered politically as they were pushed and prodded by the GOP's increasingly far-right flank to make concessions for their support. Eventually both men won the speaker's gavel, but ultimately retired early.

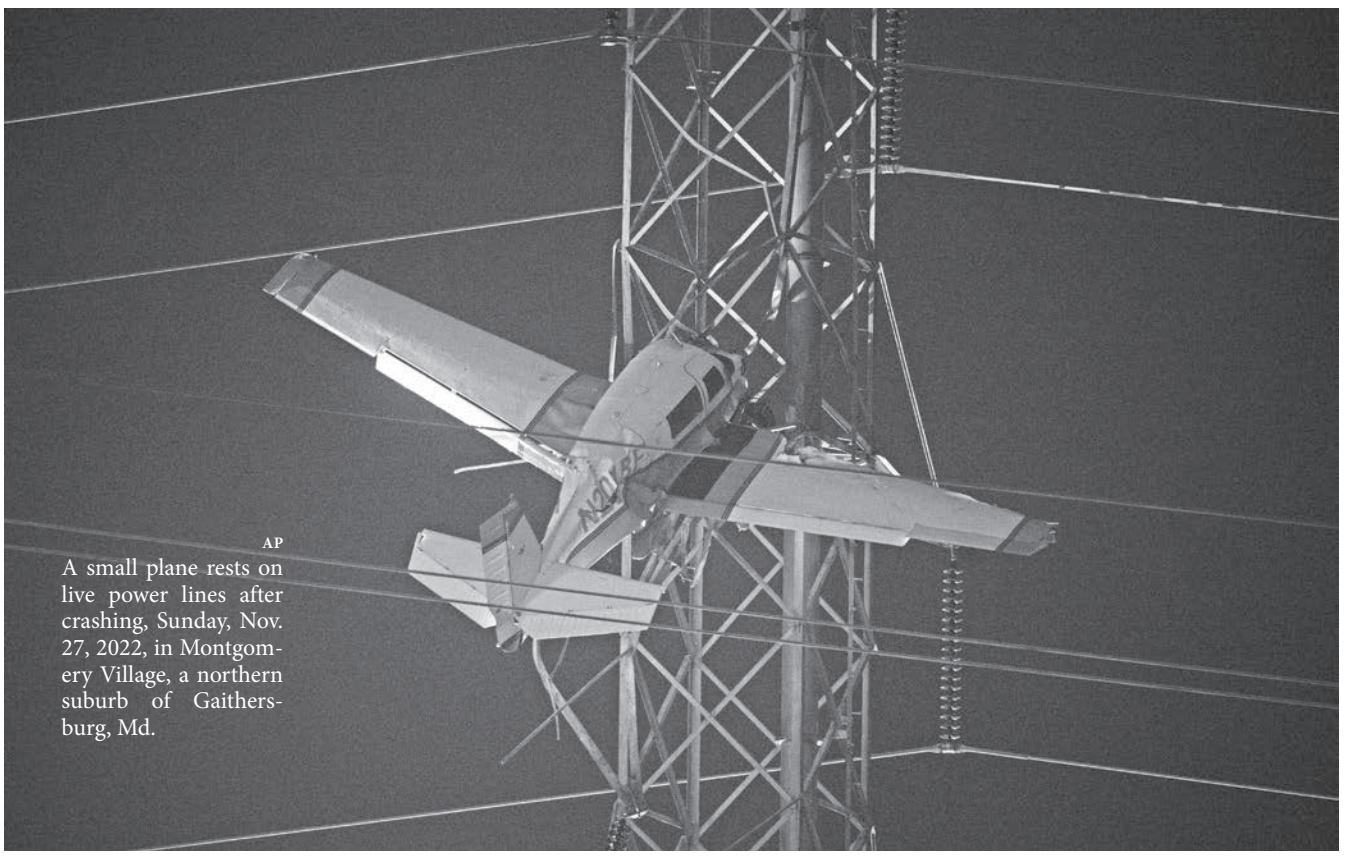
After pushing his party to victory in the midterm elections, McCarthy won the nod from a majority of his colleagues nominating him to run for speaker. But the 188-31 vote among Republicans showed the shortfall he must overcome. When the new Congress convenes in January, the whole House, Republicans and Democrats, will vote on speaker and McCarthy's party will need to stick together with their slim majority for him to prevail. Otherwise, a different Republican could emerge as a compromise candidate.

"It's a tall order," said Rep. Andy Biggs, R-Ariz., a past chairman of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, who waged a long-shot challenge to McCarthy for the nomination.

"I know he thinks he's going to get there," Biggs said. "I don't know that he can."

Even though McCarthy defeated Biggs, 188-31, in the closed-door voting, with another five Republicans casting ballots for other candidates, that's a pool of some three dozen votes the GOP leader needs to claw back if he hopes to win the speaker's job.

Crews work to rescue 2 in plane that's caught high in power lines


AP
A small plane rests on live power lines after crashing, Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022, in Montgomery Village, a northern suburb of Gaithersburg, Md.

GAITHERSBURG, Md. (AP)—A small plane carrying two people got stuck in live power lines Sunday evening in Maryland, causing widespread power outages in the surrounding county as officials worked to extricate the aircraft and its occupants.

The Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement that the single-engine plane, which had departed White Plains, New York, crashed into a power line tower near Montgomery County Airpark in Gaithersburg around 5:40 p.m. Sunday and the plane was stuck about 100 feet (30 meters) above the ground. The FAA said two people were aboard.

Pete Piringer, chief spokesperson for the Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service, said on Twitter that the people on board, identified by Maryland State Police as pilot Patrick Merkle, 65, of Washington, D.C. and passenger Jan Williams, 66, of Louisiana, are uninjured and that rescuers had been in contact with them. He had at one point said in a video message that three people were on the plane but later clarified that it was two.

As of 11 p.m. power and tower crews were grounding the lines to make sure there was no power near the aircraft.

Montgomery County Fire Chief Scott Goldstein told reporters earlier Sunday that it would take until 9:30 p.m. or later to have all the resources in place to proceed with rescue efforts, but he gave no timetable for how long after that it would take to bring the plane occupants down.

Goldstein said that utility contractors will first work to ground the high-tension wires to make it safe for rescuers to work. Fire crews will then use bucket trucks or a crane to make the plane stable by chaining it or strapping it to the tower. After the plane is more stable, Goldstein said, rescuers will use the crane or bucket trucks to bring the two people down. He said rescuers are periodically contacting them by cellphone to check on them.

The FAA identified the plane as a Mooney M20J.

The video showed a small white plane positioned nose up near a power tower. A local television station's live video showed the plane remained stuck in the transmission tower after 8 p.m.

The transmission lines remained live, complicating rescue efforts, Piringer said.

"Everything is still energized at this time," he said.

The utility Pepco reported that about 120,000 customers were without power in Montgomery County. Piringer said that many traffic lights were also out in the area. The utility said in a statement that its personnel were waiting for rescuers to clear them to enter the scene before they can make repairs at the site of the crash.

Piringer said that Montgomery County schools announced that schools will be closed on Monday.

The crash took place in Gaithersburg, a city of 69,000 people about 24 miles (39 kilometers) northwest of Washington, D.C.

The cause of the crash wasn't immediately clear. The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board will investigate what happened.

'Gaslighting' is Merriam-Webster's word of 2022

NEW YORK (AP)—"Gaslighting"—mind manipulating, grossly misleading, downright deceitful—is Merriam-Webster's word of the year.

Lookups for the word on merriam-webster.com increased 1,740% in 2022 over the year before. But something else happened. There wasn't a single event that drove significant spikes in the curiosity, as it usually goes with the chosen word of the year.

The gaslighting was pervasive.

"It's a word that has risen so quickly in the English language, and especially in the last four years, that it actually came as a surprise to me and to many of us," said Peter Sokolowski, Merriam-Webster's editor at large, in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press ahead of Monday's unveiling.

"It was a word looked up frequently every single day of the year," he said.

There were deepfakes and the dark web. There were deep states and fake news. And there was a whole lot of trolling.

Merriam-Webster's top definition for gaslighting is the psychological manipulation of a person, usually over an extended period of time, that "causes the victim to question the validity of their own thoughts, perception of reality, or memories and typically leads to confusion, loss of confidence and self-esteem, uncertainty of one's emotional or mental stability, and a dependency on the perpetrator."

Gaslighting is a heinous tool frequently used by abusers in relationships — and by politicians and other newsmakers. It can happen between romantic partners, within a broader family unit and among friends. It can be a corporate tactic, or a way to mislead the public. There's also "medical gaslighting," when a health care professional dismisses a patient's symptoms or illness as "all in your head."

Despite its relatively recent prominence — including "Gaslighter," The Chicks' 2020 album featuring the rousingly angry titular single — the word was brought to life more than 80 years ago with "Gas Light," a 1938 play by Patrick Hamilton.

It birthed two film adaptations in the 1940s. One, George Cukor's "Gaslight" in 1944, starred Ingrid Bergman as Paula Alquist and Charles Boyer as Gregory Anton. The two marry after a whirlwind romance and Gregory turns out to be a champion gaslighter. Among other instances, he insists her complains over the constant dimming of their London townhouse's gaslights is a figment of her troubled mind. It wasn't.

The death of Angela Lansbury in October drove some interest in lookups of the word, Sokolowski said. She played Nancy Oliver, a young maid hired by Gregory and told not to bother his "high-strung" wife.

The term gaslighting was later used by mental health practitioners to clinically describe a form of prolonged coercive control in abusive relationships.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Crowd angered by lockdowns calls for China's Xi to step down

SHANGHAI (AP)—Protesters angered by strict anti-virus measures called for China's powerful leader to resign, an unprecedented rebuke as authorities in at least eight cities struggled to suppress demonstrations Sunday that represent a rare direct challenge to the ruling Communist Party.

Police using pepper spray drove away demonstrators in Shanghai who called for Xi Jinping to step down and an end to one-party rule, but hours later people rallied again in the same spot. Police again broke up the demonstration, and a reporter saw protesters under arrest being driven away in a bus.

The protests — which began Friday and have spread to cities including the capital, Beijing, and dozens of university campuses — are the most widespread show of opposition to the ruling party in decades.

In a video of the protest in Shanghai verified by The Associated Press, chants against Xi, the most powerful leader since at least the 1980s, and the Chinese Communist Party sounded loud and clear: "Xi Jinping! Step down! CCP! Step down!"

Three years after the virus emerged, China is the only major country still trying to stop transmission of COVID-19. Its "zero COVID" strategy has suspended access to neighborhoods for weeks at a time. Some cities carry out daily virus tests on millions of residents.

Kidnappings, looting cited in Ethiopia's Tigray after truce

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—Allies of Ethiopia's federal military are looting property and carrying out mass detentions in Tigray, according to eyewitnesses and aid workers.

The accounts raise fresh concern about alleged atrocities more than three weeks after the warring parties signed a truce that diplomats and others hoped would bring an end to suffering in the embattled region that's home to more than 5 million people.

Tigray is still largely cut off from the rest of Ethiopia, although aid deliveries into the region resumed after the Nov. 2 cease-fire deal signed in South Africa. There's limited or no access into the region for human rights researchers, making it difficult for journalists and others to obtain information from Tigray as Ethiopian forces continue to assert control of the region.

Eritrean troops and forces from the neighboring Ethiopian region of Amhara — who have been fighting on the side of Ethiopia's federal military in the Tigray conflict — have looted businesses, private properties, vehicles, and health clinics in Shire, a northwestern town that was captured from Tigray forces last month, two aid workers there told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because of safety concerns.

Several young people have been kidnapped by Eritrean troops in Shire, the aid workers said. One said he saw "more than 300" youths being rounded up by Ethiopian federal troops in several waves of mass detentions after the capture of Shire, home to a large number of internally displaced people.

Kim's daughter appears again, heating up succession debate

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's daughter made a public appearance again, this time with missile scientists and more honorific titles as her father's "most beloved" or "precious" child. She's only about 10, but her new, bold photos are deepening the debate over whether she's being primed as a successor.

The daughter, believed to be Kim's second child named Ju Ae and about 9 or 10 years old, was first unveiled to the outside world last weekend in state media photos showing her observing the North's intercontinental ballistic missile launch the previous day with her parents and other older officials. The daughter wearing a white puffy coat and red shoes was shown walking hand-in-hand with Kim past a huge missile loaded on a launch truck and watching a soaring weapon.

On Sunday, the North's official Korean Central News Agency mentioned her for the second time, saying she and Kim took group photos with scientists, officials and others involved in what it called the test-launch of its Hwasong-17 ICBM.

Pockets of shelling across Ukraine as wintry warfare looms

KHERSON, Ukraine (AP)—Russian forces struck eastern and southern Ukraine early Sunday as utility crews scrambled to restore power, water and heating with the onset of snow and frigid temperatures, while civilians continued to leave the southern city of Kherson because of the devastation wreaked by recent attacks and their fears of more ahead.

With persistent snowfall blanketing the capital, Kyiv, Sunday, analysts predicted that wintry weather — bringing with it frozen terrain and grueling fighting conditions — could have an increasing impact on the conflict that has raged since Russian forces invaded Ukraine more than nine months ago.

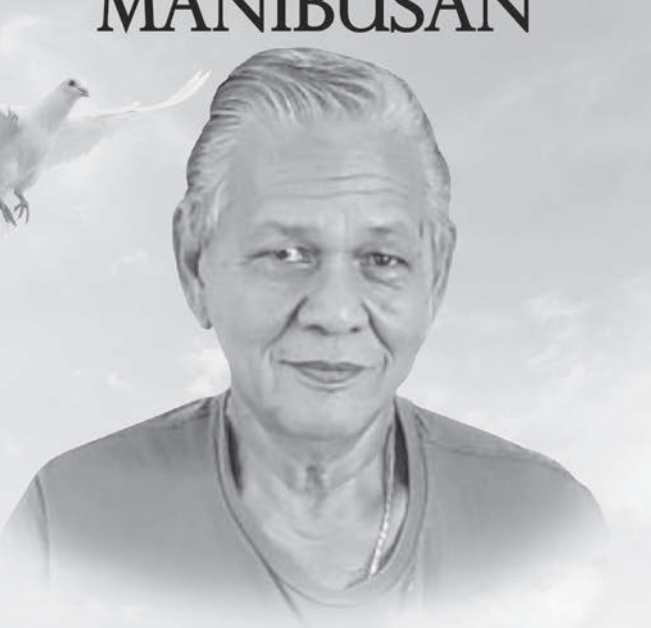
Both sides were already bogged down by heavy rain and muddy battlefield conditions, experts said.

After a blistering series of Russian artillery strikes on infrastructure that started last month, workers were fanning out in around-the-clock deployments to restore key basic services as many Ukrainians were forced to cope with only a few hours of electricity per day—if any.

"There are different detention centers around the town," said the aid worker, who also noted that Ethiopian federal troops were arresting people believed to be "associated" with the Tigray People's Liberation Front, or TPLF, the political party whose leaders led the war against the federal government.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

†FRANCISCO BENAVENTE MANIBUSAN



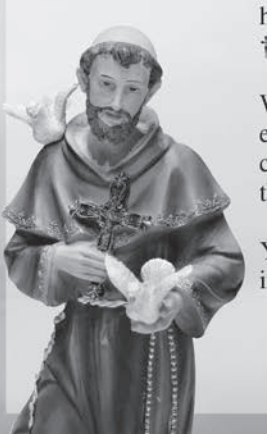
We, the family of the late †Francisco Benavente Manibusan, express our sincerest and heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have shared in our sorrow for the passing of our beloved †Francisco.

We truly appreciate the outpouring of love and support you extended to our family during this most difficult time by comforting us through your sympathy, thoughts, and prayers throughout the daily masses and funeral.

Your kindness and sympathy will forever be engraved in our hearts.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Salamat Po, Ghilisow

Nelda M. Manibusan & Family



Message of Appreciation

†Pedro Agulto Deleon Guerrero

We, the family of the late **†Pedro Agulto Deleon Guerrero** also known as **"Pedro Ojisan"**, wish to extend our deepest sincere and heartfelt "Thank You" to all our families, relatives, and friends. Your thoughtfulness and unselfish support in expressing your sympathy and condolences have helped us endure the grief and sorrow of our loss. Your presence at the daily mass and rosary has given us strength to carry on each day.

We are very grateful for all of you, most especially, Father Kenneth Masong and Jesse Reyes, Techa' Germaine Deleon Guerrero, St. Jude Choir, Veteran Foreign Wars (VFW) members, Veterans Affairs Office, Borja Funeral Home, and to those who contributed to in-kind donations, and all his friends near and far. Your kindness and love you have shown will be forever cherished and remembered.

May God Bless You All.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From the Family

Overdrive

A new Crown tops Toyota's car lineup for 2023

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

TOYOTA/TNS

The 2023 Toyota Crown Platinum has a 2.4-liter turbocharged engine and dual electric motors.

Fifty years after it last appeared in the United States, the 2023 Toyota Crown returns to the U.S. market as a replacement for the 2022 Toyota Avalon, which tried mightily to shed its stodgy image as a geezer pleaser in its final years. Toyota replaces it with a new model that's oddly traditional, but not conventionally so. Planned with the American market in mind, it's one of four Crown models sold in Japan.

More than four inches taller than the 2022 Avalon sedan it replaces, the Crown is nearly two inches shorter, with a sloping fastback design that disguises the fact that this is a sedan, not an SUV or hatchback. With its oddly shaped grille and blacked-out c-pillar, the Crown's short-but-tall proportion is exacerbated by a two-tone paint job that visually pulls apart the Crown's design coherence, making its unusual proportions more apparent. (For the record, two-tone paint is standard on the top-of-the-line Platinum, and optional on the base XLE and mid-level Limited trims.)

There's little in its design that indicates its top-drawer status aside from its size. This includes the interior, whose materials are average in quality, even in the Platinum trim. Perhaps designers were attempting to convey modernity and sportiness. Instead, it comes off as carefully budgeted, lacking the surprise and delight of design being done by Hyundai and Kia. Yet the new 12.3-inch infotainment touchscreen, powered by Toyota's U.S.-designed user interface, is a welcome change far easier to use than its older system, which used a fiddly, finicky mouse. Wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, Bluetooth with Wi-Fi 4G connectivity for up to five smartphones comes standard, as does Qi wireless charging comes standard, USB-A and -C ports and a 12-volt outlet.

You'll find the Crown's entry and exit are far to be easier than most sedans, with front seat legroom remaining unchanged. But rear seat legroom declines by 1.5 inches, while cargo space drops by 0.69 cubic feet, measuring a disappointing 15.4 cubic feet.

Most models use Toyota's fourth-generation hybrid system that pairs a normally aspirated 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine with electric motors through a continuously variable automatic transmission that now generates 236 horsepower. While it's not overly fast, it is frugal, running 0-60 mph in 7.6 seconds while returning 42 mpg city, 41 mpg highway. But while the 2022 Avalon Hybrid gives up 21 horsepower to the Crown, it delivers better fuel economy: 43 mpg city, 44 mpg highway. Nevertheless, most buyers will be perfectly satisfied with the Crown's perfectly satisfactory driveline.

The car truly shines with its new Hybrid Max driveline, which pairs a 2.4-liter turbocharged engine, and an electric motor on each axle, through a direct shift six-speed automatic transmission to generate 340 horsepower. Yes, fuel economy drops to 29 mpg city, 32 mpg highway, still good for a larger, heavy sedan. But its performance increases noticeably, reaching 60 mph in 5.7 seconds and feeling far more refined.

Like its forebear, the Crown proves quiet and comfy enough to drive, but the new hybrid driveline brings little driving fun to the equation. You can hustle it through the twisties, but there's little reward for doing so. It's heavier than the hybrid it replaces, and it lacks the over-the-top finishes that might make lower fuel economy or the unusual styling worth the tradeoff. Yes, its infotainment system is far better, and all-wheel drive is standard on all models. Yet is that enough? Certainly, the Crown delivers what Toyotas always have: a quiet, comfortable, competent driving experience with the promise of excellent reliability.

But then there's the question of price.

The 2023 Toyota Crown XLE starts at $39,950, before destination charge, sales tax and options, which sounds reasonable, while the Crown Limited starts at $45,550. But the 2023 Lexus ES300h Hybrid costs less, starting at $43,690. OK, its trunk is even smaller at 13.9 cubic feet, and shares the 2022 Avalon Hybrid's horsepower, EPA numbers and lower seating position. Even if you're considering a Toyota Crown Platinum like my test car, you'll start at $52,350, a mere $130 less than the Lexus ES 300h Ultra Luxury, the Lexus ES' poshest trim. And it's a Lexus, not a Toyota.

Given those numbers, it seems that this Crown may fare little better than any of its forebears in the U.S.

NUTS & BOLTS

2023 Toyota Crown Platinum

- **Base price**: $52,350
- **Powertrain**: 2.4-liter turbocharged engine and dual electric motors
- **Horsepower/Torque**: 340/400 pound-feet
- **EPA fuel economy (combined)**: 30 mpg
- **Length/Width/Height**: 194/72.4/60.6 inches
- **Ground clearance**: 5.8 inches
- **Cargo capacity**: 15.2 cubic feet
- **Payload**: 979 pounds
- **Towing capacity**: 5,000 pounds

Tesla recalls thousands of cars in China on software, seat belts

Tesla Inc. is recalling almost 81,000 electric cars in China—more than it typically ships from its Shanghai factory in any given month—due to a software issue and seat belt problems.

The US EV maker will call back 70,434 imported Model S, Model X and Model 3 vehicles, and 10,127 China-made Model 3 cars, the nation's State Administration for Market Regulation said in a statement Friday.

The Model S and Model X recalls require an over-the-air software fix to address a defect in the cars' battery management system, which may lead to a loss of power, while the Model 3s in question have a faulty seat belt fixture.

Tesla called for any impacted Model 3 owners to return their cars for a checkup and maintenance if needed, while urging drivers to be "cautious" on the road.

The US electric vehicle maker is going through something of a rocky patch in China, the world's biggest car market, with deliveries last month falling to 71,704 from a record high of 83,135 in September, underscoring the automaker's recent price cut to boost demand.

Tesla is also changing its marketing approach in China as fierce competition from domestic rivals like BYD Co. and uneven sales put its growth plans in what is also the world's largest electric-car market at risk.

Although Tesla recently upgraded its Shanghai factory to double capacity to about 1 million cars a year, wait times for cars have shrunk to as little as one week from as long as 22 weeks earlier this year, a sign the company is struggling to boost sales to meet those ambitions.. ***(Bloomberg News)***

The fine print on car parts

Q: Recently, I was told by two repair shops that I needed to replace the original catalytic converter on my 2005 Honda Accord coupe. The Honda dealer where I purchased the car recommended a certain shop because a particular mechanic working there might be able to save the old one with welding or using an expander. The dealer said a new OEM cat from him would cost more than the value of the car. Neither repair shop would let me take the old cat. The local scrap yard said it belonged to me and I should insist, but that didn't help. So, you could say there is more than one kind of catalytic converter theft. Why is it OK for the shop to keep the old part that I had paid for?

C.O., Syracuse, New York

A: Your parts are yours—anything removed from your vehicle, even the battery. But here is the fine print: a core charge. You have the option to pay the core charge and keep the old part or let the shop keep the component and get its core charge money back. The core charge is like a deposit held for the return of the used part and encourages returning it. Core charges are set by suppliers based on the value of the materials in the part or its reusability. Your shop paid a core charge and then got its money back from its supplier. If you buy and install a battery, the store will charge you $10-20 but you will get it back when you return your old battery.

■■■

Q: I love your subtle and not so subtle humor in many of your replies. Keep up the good work.

I own a Subaru Forester. My wife might soon be the owner of a Subaru Outback. I stopped buying snow tires in 1983 (I think). She showed me an article that made me ponder: My thinking is that most of the suburban roads here (we live in the Chicago suburbs) are salted and that "winter tires" are not necessary. However, my wife does take trips farther west of us, which take her on farm roads where there is sometimes blowing and drifting snow during the winter months. What are your thoughts on winter tires? Should I go back to my 1983 habits? (Maybe I could even buy some parachute pants.)

M.S., St. Charles, Illinois

A: I have heard that those baggy bottoms are coming back. Ugh. But winter tires (don't call them snow tires) never went out of style—especially in the snow belt. You may get by fine with all-season tires in the Plains states like Illinois, but winter tires are beneficial there, too. An added benefit is that winter tires help stop the vehicle in a shorter distance than all-season or summer tires.

Q: We're told there is a proper way to charge cell phones to preserve battery health and longevity (charge when you're at 20%, no overnight charging, etc.) Is the same true of EVs?

B.D., Woodstock, Illinois

A: Yes and no. The batteries life in electric vehicles would suffer the same fate as cell phone batteries. However, the vehicle's computers prevent charging to 100 percent despite what your gauge may say. Ditto for running the charge down to zero. In other words, there is a built-in cushion or buffer to preserve battery life.

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Life & Style

Feast and famine for Disney at Thanksgiving box office

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

Thanksgiving often serves up a feast of new family movies at the box office, but the Walt Disney Co.'s animated offering "Strange World " fizzled with audiences out of the gates. The production, which carried a reported $180 million budget, grossed just $18.6 million in ticket sales in its first five days and $11.9 million over the weekend in North American theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The top spot for the holiday corridor, which runs from Wednesday through Sunday, instead went to another Disney movie, Marvel's "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," which raked in an additional $64 million over the last five days, $45.9 million of which was from the weekend. The superhero sequel has reigned over the charts for three weekends now and has grossed $675.6 million worldwide.

It was a muted weekend despite a buffet of well-reviewed options, including the Korean War aviation drama " Devotion," the nationwide expansion of the Timothée Chalamet cannibal romance " Bones and All " and Steven Spielberg's "The Fabelmans."

DISNEY VIA AP

This image released by Disney shows, clockwise from foreground center Meridian Clade, voiced by Gabrielle Union Searcher Clade, voiced by Jake Gyllenhaal, Jaeger Clade, voiced by Dennis Quaid, Callisto Mal, voiced by Lucy Liu, Ethan Clade, voiced by Jaboukie Young-White in a scene from the animated film "Strange World."

"Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery" also opened in 600 theaters nationwide for a weeklong limited run. It marks the first time a Netflix film has played in the nation's major theater chains, including AMC, Regal and Cinemark, but neither Netflix nor the exhibitors provided sales estimates for the film, which won't hit the streaming service until Dec. 23. The first "Knives Out," which was released by Lionsgate, opened to $41.4 million over Thanksgiving weekend in 2019.

Between the "Glass Onion" mystery and the "Strange World" miss, it was a reminder that the exhibition business is still far from normal.

"This was not pre-destined to be a blockbuster Thanksgiving weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, Comscore's senior media analyst. He noted that the marketplace is still being impacted by the pandemic's effects on Hollywood production and release schedules.

Disney has historically "owned" the Thanksgiving weekend. Walt Disney Studios and Pixar animated titles account for the top six Thanksgiving openings of all time, including films such as "Frozen," which made $93.6 million in 2013, "Ralph Breaks the Internet," which pulled in $84.8 million in 2018 and "Moana," which earned $82.1 million when it opened in 2016. But it's also been a difficult two years at the company, which last week stunned the industry when it announced that Bob Iger was returning to the company as CEO, replacing his handpicked successor Bob Chapek

"Strange World" opened in 4,714 locations on Wednesday, but it was clear from early preview showings that it was going to be slow going. On Friday, it earned only $5.2 million. "Wakanda Forever," by contrast, made $18.2 million on Friday in 4,258 theaters and has been out for three weeks.

The animated adventure film's debut is one of the bigger bombs in the modern history of the Disney Animation studio, similar to the $16 million 2002 Thanksgiving opening of "Treasure Planet." "Strange World" was directed by Don Hall and Qui Nguyen and follows a family of explorers and features the voices of Jake Gyllenhaal, Dennis Quaid, Gabrielle Union and Lucy Liu. Reviews have been mostly positive, with a 73% Rotten Tomatoes score.

A lack of new family oriented films over the past several weeks may have resulted in "muted" awareness for "Strange World," according to Dergarabedian.

Third place went to "Devotion," directed by JD Dillard and starring Jonathan Majors and Glenn Powel, which made $9 million in its first five days and $6 million over the weekend from 3,405 locations. The film was made by Black Label Media and distributed by Columbia Pictures in 3,405 locations. The war epic is based on the true story of Jesse Brown, the first Black aviator in the history of the U.S. Navy, who along with his friend Tom Hudner were pivotal in turning the tide in one of the most brutal battles of the Korean War.

" The Menu," the satirical fine-dining thriller starring Ralph Feinnes and Anya Taylor-Joy, landed in fourth in its second weekend, with $7.4 million over the past five days and $5.2 million over the weekend. Fifth place went to "Black Adam."

In sixth place for the weekend was Spielberg's "The Fabelmans," which is based on the filmmaker's own family and teenage years. The Universal release expanded to 638 theaters, where it earned $3.1 million over five days and $2.2 million over the weekend.

United Artists Releasing rolled "Bones and All" out to 2,727 theaters, where it made an estimated $3.6 million over the five-day opening, with $2.2 million of that coming from the weekend. According to exit polls, some 74% of the audience was between the ages of 18 and 34. The R-rated film from Luca Guadagnino stars Chalamet and Taylor Russell as young cannibals on a road trip through the American Midwest.

In more limited releases, Elegance Bratton's "The Inspection " expanded to 32 screens and earned $103,033 over five days.

Overall ticket sales are expected to net out around $125 million. That would be down about 12% from last year, which boasted releases such as "Encanto," which opened to $40.6 million even with a spiking COVID-19 variant. For movie theater owners, it places even more pressure on "Avatar: The Way of Water," to deliver a big windfall to close out the year. It launches on Dec. 16.

"Usually Thanksgiving weekend is all about kids and families going to the theater. This year, it's a heavy mix of films aimed at adults and that's not a recipe for a box office feast in theaters," Dergarabedian said. "But it'll come back in a big way when Avatar opens."

1. **"Black Panther: Wakanda Forever,"** $45.9 million ($64 million).
2. **"Strange World,"** $11.9 million ($18.6 million).
3. **"Devotion,"** $6 million ($9 million).
4. **"The Menu,"** $5.2 million ($7.4 million).
5. **"Black Adam,"** $3.4 million.
6. **"The Fabelmans,"** $2.2 million ($3.1 million).
7. **"Bones and All,"** $2.2 million ($3.6 million).
8. **"Ticket to Paradise,** "$1.9 million ($2.6 million).
9. **"The Chosen Season 3: Episode 1 &2,"** $1.6 million.
10. **"She Said,"** $1.1 million ($1.5 million).

Jon Batiste to sing for Macron at Biden's 1st state dinner

NANTUCKET, Mass. (AP)—Musician Jon Batiste is on tap to perform at President Joe Biden's first White House state dinner on Thursday that will highlight long-standing ties between the United States and France and honor President Emmanuel Macron.

Batiste

"An artist who transcends generations, Jon Batiste's music inspires and brings people together," said Vanessa Valdivia, a spokesperson for first lady Jill Biden, whose office is overseeing dinner preparations.

"We're thrilled to have him perform at the White House for the first state dinner of the Biden-Harris administration," Valdivia said.

The black-tie dinner for Macron will be part of what is shaping up to be a busy social season at the White House. The Bidens' granddaughter Naomi was married on the South Lawn earlier this month.

Bride-to-be doesn't want sister in wedding party

DEAR ABBY: I became engaged to a wonderful man five months ago. We have set a wedding date for next year. I'm ecstatic—thrilled to be planning such an important milestone in my life. I'm the youngest of five girls. Four of us are extremely close. Three of my sisters have graciously offered to help with the wedding planning and preparation. I have included them in my bridal party—matron of honor, two bridesmaids, and two of my teenage nieces as junior bridesmaids.

There's one big issue: My parents and two of my sisters insist that I include my oldest sister, "Iris," in my bridal party even though she has a mental illness (schizophrenia). She is medicated, but still speaks to her "voices." I love her, but I don't find it appropriate to include her in my wedding.

My matron of honor is supportive and agrees it would be unwise. However, my remaining family is guilt-tripping me because Iris missed out on two of my sisters' weddings due to being in a psychiatric facility. She lives with my retired parents now and requires care and supervision. Am I wrong for not wanting to risk including her on my big day?

FUTURE BRIDE IN KENTUCKY

DEAR FUTURE BRIDE: Weddings are family events that can sometimes strain relationships. As with all conflict, communication and compromise are key. Discuss your concerns with your parents, sisters and fiance and consider their opinions and advice. Get assurances of their help to ease your concerns and raise your comfort level.

More important, respectfully discuss your feelings and concerns with Iris. Instead of being in the bridal party, she might be happy with a less prominent role while still being part of the celebration. You may not realize how hurt she would be if she's excluded from this family milestone.

Thankfully, you are healthy and stepping into a bright future. It would be wonderful if Iris could share in this joyful occasion. However, include her only if your parents and siblings are willing to guarantee that should her presence become a distraction or disruptive, they will quietly and immediately remove her.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: While having dinner with a group of friends, the subject came up about giving Christmas gifts to grandchildren, nieces, nephews and godchildren after a certain age. Some said they stop giving at 18 years of age; others said they stop doing it when the recipients start their own families. A few of us still give to "kids" well into their 40s. Is there a certain age to stop, or is it up to the individual?

GENEROUS IN ILLINOIS

DEAR GENEROUS: There is no one-size-fits-all answer to this question. It depends on the individual, how many relatives there are and whether the gift-giving is creating a financial squeeze.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

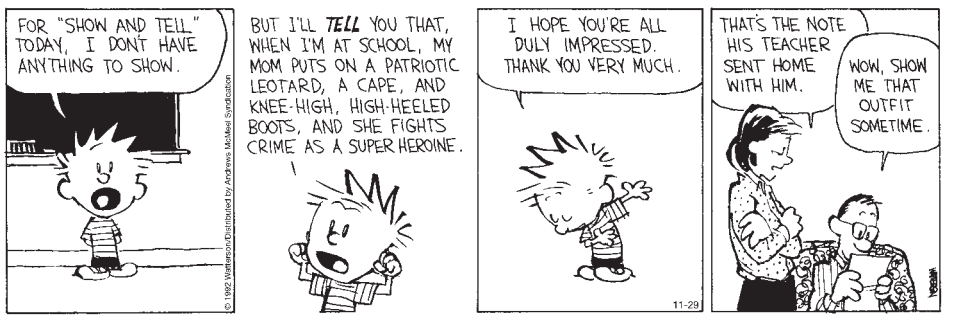
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

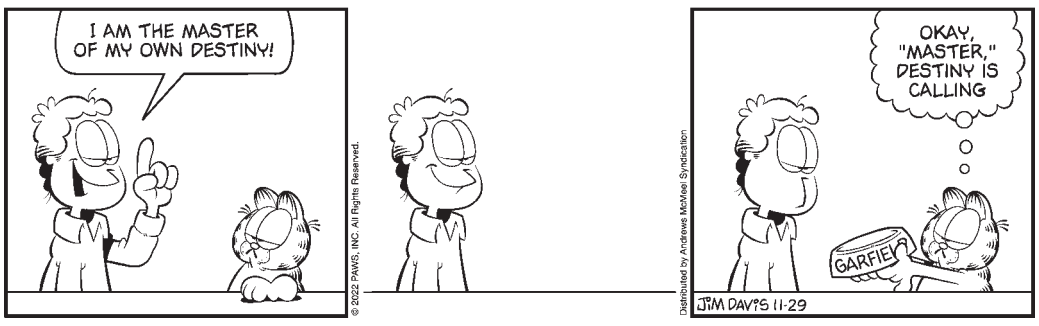
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


FOR "SHOW AND TELL" TODAY, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SHOW.
BUT I'LL TELL YOU THAT, WHEN I'M AT SCHOOL, MY MOM PUTS ON A PATRIOTIC LEOTARD, A CAPE, AND KNEE-HIGH, HIGH-HEELED BOOTS, AND SHE FIGHTS CRIME AS A SUPER HEROINE.
I HOPE YOU'RE ALL DULY IMPRESSED. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
11-29
THAT'S THE NOTE HIS TEACHER SENT HOME WITH HIM.
WOW, SHOW ME THAT OUTFIT SOMETIME.
© 1992 Watterson/Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I AM THE MASTER OF MY OWN DESTINY!
© 2022 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
OKAY, "MASTER," DESTINY IS CALLING
GARFIEL
JIM DAVIS 11-29
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY! IT SOUNDS LIKE I'VE SOLD MY NEXT BOOK!
REALLY??
YEP. MY AGENT SAYS THE PUBLISHER IS REALLY EXCITED!
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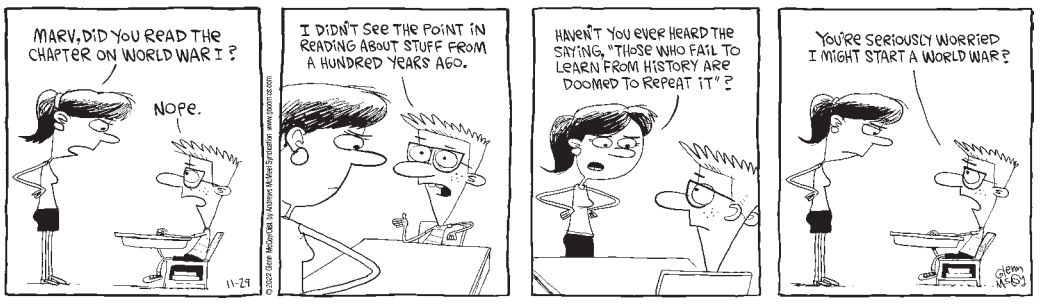
www.gocomics.com
11-29
THAT IS SO GREAT, HONEY.
DID YOUR AGENT WRITE BACK?
NO. NO. HE MAY HAVE CHANGED HIS NUMBER, BUT I'M STAYING POSITIVE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


MARV, DID YOU READ THE CHAPTER ON WORLD WAR I?
NOPE.
11-29
I DIDN'T SEE THE POINT IN READING ABOUT STUFF FROM A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.
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HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD THE SAYING, "THOSE WHO FAIL TO LEARN FROM HISTORY ARE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT"?
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY WORRIED I MIGHT START A WORLD WAR?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Donned
5 "Spring ahead" hrs.
8 Banquet platform
12 Trojan War hero
13 Presidential nickname
14 Approximately
15 Fury
16 Bias
18 Precious stone
20 Came to
21 Soup cooker
22 "Alice" waitress
23 "Swell!"
26 Nursery stack
30 On in years
31 Distant
32 Marseilles monarch
33 Journals
36 Bread and pasta, slangily
38 Noshed
39 Prof's degree
40 Maine college town
43 Using a rotary phone
47 A type of musical scale
49 Construction piece
50 Rue the run
51 Pen filler
52 Composer Bartok
53 Thy
54 Some coll. degrees
55 Remain

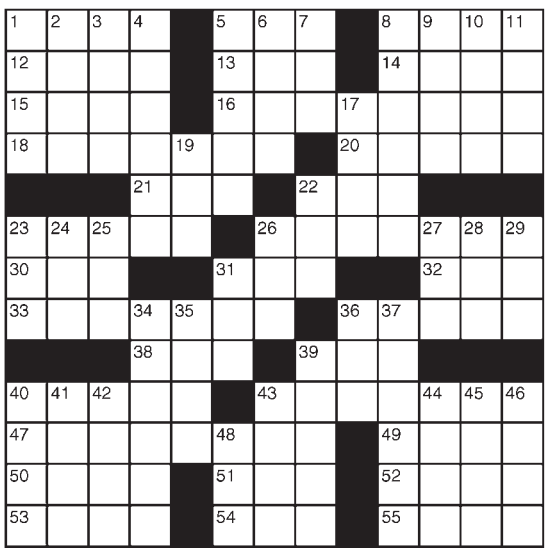
DOWN

1 City district
2 California town
3 Sitarist's music
4 Off the hook
5 Failed to
6 Lose traction
7 Darjeeling, e.g.
8 '50s singing style
9 Florence's river
10 Author Dinesen
11 Only
17 Fancy party
19 Odometer start
22 Tall tree
23 Silent assent
24 Yale grad
25 Oklahoma city
26 "— Kapital"
27 Blunder
28 Filch
29 Bro's kin
31 Charge
34 One on a tirade
35 Langston Hughes poem
36 Chinese tea
37 Improvises
39 Chooses
40 Singer Anita
41 Puerto —
42 Diamond Head locale
43 Actress Merrill
44 "Yeah, right"
45 "The Lion King" lion
46 Battleship color
48 Pen tip

Solution time: 22 mins.

B	A	L	M	■	A	N	T	■	E	M	U	S
E	P	E	E	■	R	E	A	■	S	A	S	H
L	E	A	D	■	M	A	R	I	T	I	M	E
A	S	S	I	S	I	■	A	R	E	N	A	S
■	■	■	C	A	N	I	■	T	E	T	■	■
M	A	R	I	N	A	D	E	■	M	A	R	E
I	S	A	■	D	R	E	A	D	■	I	O	N
G	U	M	P	■	M	A	R	I	A	N	N	E
■	■	■	P	O	I	■	S	T	I	R	■	■
A	M	A	N	D	A	■	H	I	N	T	E	D
M	A	R	I	A	C	H	I	■	O	R	Z	O
E	T	T	E	■	H	E	E	■	L	U	R	E
S	A	S	S	■	E	R	R	■	D	E	A	R

Yesterday's answer 11-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anna Faris, 46; Don Cheadle, 58; Andrew McCarthy, 60; Howie Mandel, 67.

Happy Birthday: A positive and open attitude will help you navigate the ups and downs this year. Don't let being too trusting be your downfall. Be resourceful. Research and verify every bit of information you receive from outside sources. Focus on your goals, not the people trying to get you to change or be a follower. Your numbers are 7, 18, 22, 26, 31, 37, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pay attention to what's happening around you and pitch in and help. Your input will influence the outcome and position you for unexpected opportunities. Business trips or meetings will enlighten and encourage you to acquire additional knowledge and skills. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You'll be confused by what you want to do. Get an early start and eliminate the problem of running out of time. Put your muscle where it counts and your energy into success, not disagreement. Change only what's necessary. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Build momentum and show everyone what you've got to offer. Put your best foot forward, and don't trust anyone to handle matters for you. Shape your future with innovative ideas and hands-on methods that allow you to maintain control. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Handle your cash creatively. Look for investments that you can control and build over time. Solid and secure plans will alleviate stress and make it easier to decide your fate as you continue along a risk-free path. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take nothing for granted. Keep an eye on what others say and do, and you'll avoid being blindsided by someone trying to put one over you. Let discipline and integrity be your calling cards to ensure people treat you respectfully. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Change begins with you, so don't let anyone else decide your next move. Mull over your options and study the ramifications. Compensate to ensure everything you want to do runs smoothly. Protect your home and family from risky situations. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Size up your situation and use your attributes to get ahead. A good idea executed with finesse and enthusiasm will draw positive attention and help you make a positive difference. Physical fitness and a healthy diet will help you look your best. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take care of responsibilities before someone asks you to get moving. Build a stellar reputation by going above and beyond the call of duty. Set the standard instead of lowering the bar. Deal with sensitive issues carefully. Keep the peace. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Do for yourself and avoid disappointment. You'll be prodded to do things that don't suit you. Set high standards, and don't stop until you are happy with the results. Express your feelings and follow your heart. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A proposal that sounds smashingly good will have hidden drawbacks. Play it safe and back away from any dubious or costly situations. If you want a change, make your surroundings comfortable. Explore the best way to update your qualifications. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't hide your feelings. Speak up, share your intentions and find out where you stand. Your drive, insight and desire to get ahead will have a lasting impression on someone who can help you advance. Self-improvement and personal growth are encouraged. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be careful what you wish for and who you share with today. Someone will intentionally misinterpret you if given a chance. Choose your words wisely, and promise only what you want and know you can fulfill. Arguing will lead to an unnecessary feud. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are demonstrative, optimistic and inventive. You are changeable and dynamic.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8		4		7		3	
5	3					9	4	7
	2			1				
8								1
		5		9		4		
3								6
				7			1	
4	6	7					8	5
	9		5		3		2	

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	3	1	6	4	2	9	5	7
6	4	9	5	7	3	2	8	1
2	7	5	9	8	1	6	4	3
3	5	4	1	6	7	8	2	9
7	9	6	8	2	4	1	3	5
1	8	2	3	9	5	7	6	4
9	2	3	7	5	6	4	1	8
5	6	8	4	1	9	3	7	2
4	1	7	2	3	8	5	9	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

EATING DURIAN FRUIT **Solution: 9 letters**

M	I	L	K	S	H	A	K	E	S	D	E	E	S	P
D	A	M	A	L	A	Y	S	I	A	R	E	O	R	C
N	S	R	A	R	E	P	E	R	C	A	F	A	O	R
A	W	L	K	N	G	T	R	E	E	T	H	V	U	E
L	E	S	I	E	G	E	S	C	E	S	S	R	N	A
I	E	I	S	Ⓒ	T	O	U	A	E	U	M	G	D	M
A	T	Z	H	Ⓤ	E	A	Y	N	T	C	A	N	D	Y
H	H	E	A	Ⓣ	S	E	I	R	I	C	E	L	E	R
T	I	G	P	U	L	P	O	S	O	R	S	L	I	R
N	C	D	E	L	P	P	I	E	E	V	E	E	R	U
E	K	E	O	I	I	C	A	K	E	N	A	H	D	C
G	S	W	L	C	E	P	I	C	E	R	O	S	N	J
N	U	I	A	M	O	R	A	L	M	O	N	D	S	A
U	H	L	E	M	A	R	A	C	H	I	P	S	N	M
P	U	D	D	I	N	G	M	A	E	R	C	E	C	I

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Almonds, Aroma, Cake, Candy, Caramel, Chips, Creamy, Crepe, Curry, Custard, Cut, Dried, Husk, Ice Cream, Indonesia, Jam, Large, Malaysia, Mango, Market, Milkshakes, Philippines, Pudding, Pulp, Pungent, Recipe, Rice, Round, Sauce, Savory, Seams, Seed, Shape, Sharp, Shell, Size, Slice, Soft, Spike, Sweet, Taste, Thailand, Thick, Tree, Tropical, Wedge, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Medium

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Jacobs' 86-yard run in OT gives Raiders win vs. Seahawks

SEATTLE (AP)—Josh Jacobs sprinted 86 yards for a game-ending touchdown Sunday and the Las Vegas Raiders won in overtime for the second straight week, beating the Seattle Seahawks 40-34.

Jacobs finished with a franchise-record 229 yards rushing and two scores. He also had six catches for 74 yards, and his 303 yards from scrimmage were the most in franchise history and the seventh-most in an NFL game in the Super Bowl era.

Las Vegas (4-7) finished with 283 yards rushing and its 576 total yards were the third-most ever allowed by the Seahawks (6-5), who fell one game behind San Francisco in the NFC West.

Las Vegas forced overtime thanks to Derek Carr's 5-yard touchdown toss to Foster Moreau in the corner of the end zone with 1:54 remaining that tied it at 34. Carr threw an interception on the first play of the game but finished 25-of-36 for 295 yards and three touchdowns.

Seattle suffered a second straight loss after losing two weeks ago in Germany against Tampa Bay. Geno Smith was 27-of-37 for 328 yards and two touchdowns. But Seattle's rushing attack struggled for the second straight game, although Kenneth Walker III ran for two TDs.

In overtime, Daniel Carlson missed a 56-yard field goal attempt on Las Vegas' first possession. But Seattle went three-and-out, and on the next play from scrimmage, Jacobs broke free.

AP

Las Vegas Raiders running back Josh Jacobs (28) celebrates as he scores the game-winning touchdown during overtime of an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022, in Seattle.

Browns 23, Buccaneers 17

In Cleveland, Nick Chubb ran for a 3-yard touchdown with 19 seconds left in overtime, and Cleveland rallied to stun Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneer in Browns quarterback Jacoby Brissett's final start before Deshaun Watson returns from his suspension.

Chubb powered through a pile of bodies at the goal line as the Browns (4-7) sent Brissett off with a win. Watson, who was banned 11 games by the NFL for sexual misconduct allegations, will start this week in Houston.

Chubb's short TD was set up when Brissett connected on a 45-yard pass to Amari Cooper, who found himself wide open when Bucs cornerback Carlton Davis III slipped and fell near midfield.

The Browns forced overtime on tight end David Njoku's remarkable, one-handed TD catch with 32 seconds left in regulation. Njoku extended his left arm to haul in Brissett's 12-yard scoring strike in the back of the end zone.

Brady threw two touchdown passes, but couldn't get anything going in the 10-minute OT.

Jaguars 28, Ravens 27

In Jacksonville, Fla., Trevor Lawrence connected with Marvin Jones for a 10-yard touchdown with 14 seconds remaining and hit Zay Jones for a gutsy 2-point conversion as Jacksonville held on to beat Baltimore.

The Ravens' Justin Tucker missed a 67-yard field goal try on the last play. Tucker made four field goals in the game but came up just short on his attempt to break by 1 yard his own record for the longest field goal in NFL history.

After Lawrence led the Jaguars (4-7) to the go-ahead TD and conversion, Jacksonville squibbed the kickoff and gave the Ravens (7-4) the ball near midfield. Lamar Jackson found Josh Oliver in the flat for a 12-yard gain that set up Tucker's try.

Jackson and Oliver connected earlier for a 12-yard score in the waning minutes, and a 2-point conversion put Baltimore up 27-20.

Chargers 25, Cardinals 24

In Glendale, Ariz., Justin Herbert threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Austin Ekeler with 15 seconds left, then hit Gerald Everett for a 2-point conversion to lift Los Angeles past Arizona.

Ekeler just got into the end zone for the TD that moved the Chargers within one, capping a seven-play, 38-yard drive that lasted 1:33. The ball hit the pylon as he dived toward the corner.

That set up a bold call by coach Brandon Staley, who opted for the winning 2-pointer instead of a tying extra point. Herbert hit Everett for a clean catch despite plenty of traffic near the goal line.

Herbert completed 35-of-47 passes for 274 yards and three touchdowns for the Chargers (6-5), who snapped a two-game skid while staying in the thick of the AFC playoff race. Arizona (4-8) has lost four-of-five, leaving it with almost no shot at making the NFC playoff field.

The Cardinals took a 24-17 lead early in the fourth quarter when Kyler Murray threw a short pass to James Conner for a 6-yard touchdown. The veteran running back had 25 carries for 120 yards, his first 100-yard rushing game in two seasons with the Cardinals.

Bengals 20, Titans 16

In Nashville, Tenn., Joe Burrow threw a 27-yard touchdown pass to Tee Higgins with 13:42 left and Cincinnati held off Tennessee for its third straight victory and fifth in six games.

The defending AFC champion Bengals (7-4) won the rematch of their divisional playoff victory against Tennessee despite not having running back Joe Mixon (concussion protocol) and receiver Ja'Marr Chase (hip).

Evan McPherson kicked a pair of field goals for the Bengals. He connected on a third with 1:53 left, but an unnecessary roughness penalty on Tennessee nullified the kick and allowed the Bengals to run out the clock.

The Titans (7-4) equaled their most points allowed since a Week 2 loss at Buffalo as their two-game winning streak ended.

Cincinnati smothered NFL rushing leader Derrick Henry yet again, holding him to 38 yards, his second-lowest total of the season. Tennessee tried to rally by throwing to Henry, and he had a career-best 79 yards receiving. Ryan Tannehill threw for 291 yards, but the Titans couldn't score a touchdown in three trips to the red zone.

Jets 31, Bears 10

In East Rutherford, N.J., Mike White threw three touchdown passes, including two to Garrett Wilson, as New York rolled over banged-up Chicago.

White made his first start since last season in place of the benched Zach Wilson and sparked the Jets to a season-high 466 yards in the rain. White was 22-of-28 for 315 yards.

White became the fifth player in NFL history to have multiple games with 300 yards passing and three TD passes in his first four career starts, joining Patrick Mahomes, Austin Davis, Kurt Warner and Mark Rypien.

Elijah Moore, who requested a trade earlier this season because of a lack of opportunities, caught his first touchdown pass of the season. Ty Johnson had a 32-yard TD run for the Jets (7-4).

Dolphins 30, Texans 15

In Miami Gardens, Fla., Tua Tagovailoa threw for 299 yards as Miami built a 30-0 lead against Houston and held on for its fifth straight win.

Tagovailoa had his fourth straight game without an interception, Jaylen Waddle and Tyreek Hill each had 85 yards receiving and the Dolphins' defense had three takeaways.

Houston (1-9-1) managed just 32 yards through its first 25 plays with Kyle Allen starting at quarterback in place of the benched Davis Mills. The Texans finished with 210 yards of total offense, most of which came in the second half.

Miami (8-3) scored on six of its first seven possessions, and its receivers were wide open in the Houston secondary. Waddle had 10 catches and Hill had nine.

Commanders 19, Falcons 13

In Landover, Md., Taylor Heinicke threw two touchdown passes in a run-heavy game in the rain, Kendall Fuller intercepted Marcus Mariota in the end zone with 58 seconds left and Washington beat Atlanta for its sixth win in seven games.

Washington used five ball carriers and ran 37 times for 176 yards to Atlanta's 29 for 167.

No one got it more for the Commanders (7-5) than rookie Brian Robinson Jr, who ran 18 times for a career-high 105 yards and averaged 5.8 yards per attempt. He also caught Heinicke's first TD pass, bulldozing cornerback Darren Hall for a 14-yard score.

Heinicke also found tight end John Bates for a 16-yard TD and finished 14-of-23 for 138 yards with an interception. Daron Payne tipped Mariota's pass on Fuller's pick, and Atlanta's Ade Ogundeji ran into Commanders punter Tress Way with 32 seconds left to send Washington to its best record through 12 games since 2008.

49ers 13, Saints 0

In Santa Clara, Calif., San Francisco forced two fumbles from Alvin Kamara to become the first team in nearly 21 years to hold New Orleans scoreless.

The Niners (7-4) set the tone on defense from the opening drive, when Fred Warner forced a fumble by Kamara that he recovered, and they didn't let up from there. San Francisco won its fourth straight and took a one-game lead in the NFC West.

They stopped the Saints (4-8) near the goal line twice in the second half -- including another fumble by Kamara to post their first shutout since beating Washington 9-0 on Oct. 20, 2019.

New Orleans had the longest active scoring streak and fourth longest in NFL history at 332 games since being blanked by San Francisco in the 2001 finale.

Panthers 23, Broncos 10

In Charlotte, N.C., Sam Darnold threw for a touchdown and recovered his own fumble for another score in his first game of the season, helping Carolina beat Denver.

Making his first start since Week 18 last year, Darnold completed 11-of-19 passes for 164 yards without a turnover. He is the third QB to start this season for the Panthers (4-8), joining Baker Mayfield and P.J. Walker.

Darnold got help from D'Onta Foreman, who ran for 113 yards on 24 carries, and receiver D.J. Moore, who broke out of a midseason slump with four catches for 103 yards, including a 5-yard touchdown.

The Panthers limited Russell Wilson to 19-of-35 passing for 142 yards and sacked him three times, sending the Broncos (3-8) to their seventh loss in eight games. Pro Bowl defensive end Brian Burns had two sacks of Wilson, including a forced fumble, and he tipped a pass to end another drive.

Eagles 40, Packers 33

In Philadelphia, Jalen Hurts ran for 157 yards to set an Eagles record for a quarterback, and Packers QB Aaron Rodgers suffered an oblique injury in Philadelphia's victory against Green Bay.

Hurts also threw for 153 yards and two touchdowns for the NFC-best Eagles, who moved to 10-1 for the fifth time in history. Miles Sanders ran for 143 yards and two scores as Philadelphia rushed for 363 overall, the second-best total for the franchise.

Rodgers left in the third quarter with his team trailing 34-23 after grimacing his way through a drive that led to a Packers field goal. He had already been playing with a broken thumb and took several hard hits.

Rodgers' replacement, Jordan Love, kept the Packers (4-8) in the game by connecting with Christian Watson for a 63-yard catch-and-run touchdown that cut Philly's lead to 37-30.

But the Packers ran out of time against Hurts, who seems poised to take the torch from Rodgers as the next MVP.

Hurts topped Michael Vick's 130 yards rushing set in December 2010 against the New York Giants. He threw a TD pass in the first half and ripped off runs of 42, 28 and 24 yards. In the second half, he hit A.J. Brown for a 6-yard TD pass and a 34-20 lead.

Rodgers was 11-of-16 passing for 140 yards, two touchdowns and two first-half interceptions.

Morocco pulls off another World Cup upset, beats Belgium 2-0

DOHA, Qatar (AP)— Morocco pulled off yet another World Cup shock on Sunday, and Belgium's aging "Golden Generation" took the hit this time.

The 2-0 upset left Kevin de Bruyne and the 2018 semi-finalists in peril of a group-stage exit at what is likely the final World Cup for a highly-talented Belgian group that haven't managed to convert their promise into prizes.

It might now be too late.

De Bruyne didn't drive Belgium forward against Morocco, captain Eden Hazard was taken off after an hour, and goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois was probably at fault for the opening goal.

"We haven't seen the best Belgium yet," said Roberto Martinez, a Spaniard who has coached the team for six years. "We haven't been ourselves."

Belgium could have become the second team behind defending champion France to advance to the last 16 if it beat Morocco. But it dropped from first to third in Group F and now plays against 2018 World Cup finalist Croatia trying to avoid its earliest elimination since 1998.

Morocco captain Romain Saiss gave his team the lead with a barely noticeable deflection off his hip after a free kick from Abdelhamid Sabiri in the 73rd minute that got under the body of Courtois — for many, the best goalkeeper in the world.

Zakaria Aboukhlal guided a shot into the roof of the net off a pass from Hakim Ziyech in stoppage time to make it 2-0 as Belgium's defense, boasting more than 300 international appearances but anchored by two players in their mid-30s, was beaten by a speedy 22-year-old forward playing at his first World Cup.

AP

Morocco's Zakaria Aboukhlal celebrates his side's second goal besides Belgium's Axel Witsel during the World Cup group F soccer match between Belgium and Morocco, at the Al Thumama Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022.

Morocco's players kneeled and pressed their heads to the ground in prayer, then leapt up in celebration. Pulling himself up from the ground, Courtois just shook his head.

The second big upset at the first World Cup in the Middle East involved another Arabic nation. Saudi Arabia defeated Argentina in the opening set of group games.

Morocco, which was roared on by thunderous noise from its fans at Al Thumama Stadium, had started in Qatar with a promising 0-0 draw with Croatia.

"We are delighted with that after Croatia and Belgium," Morocco coach Walid Regragui said. "That's absolutely outstanding for Morocco."

Belgium, ranked No. 2 in the world behind Brazil, had won its last seven group games at the World Cup before the upset, but that included a labored 1-0 win over Canada to open this year's tournament.

Even De Bruyne said in a media interview before the World Cup that Belgium's squad was likely too old to win now.

"I don't think any comments will affect a result or a performance," Martinez said, dismissing the suggestion that De Bruyne's interview might have unsettled Belgium.

Costa Rica 1, Japan 0

In Al Rayyan, Qatar, essentially written off after being battered by Spain, Keysher Fuller has changed everything for Costa Rica.

Fuller took advantage of a defensive error and scored the only goal of the match to lead his team over Japan 1-0 Sunday at the World Cup. Both teams now have three points after two matches and a good chance to advance to the round of 16 from Group E.

"We're still alive," said Costa Rica coach Luis Fernando Suarez, a Colombian who also guided Ecuador and Honduras to World Cup berths. "We weren't dead yesterday, and now we are very much in this. The main thing is we are still alive. No one can forget about us. We can still dream."

Fuller scored his goal in the 81st minute after Japan failed to clear the ball. He hit the net from 18 meters (yards), with the shot going in off the fingertips of leaping Japan goalkeeper Shuichi Gonda.

Croatia 4, Canada 1

In Al Rayyan, Qatar, a bit of trash talk meant to inspire Canada instead motivated Croatia.

Canada coach John Herdman had tried to boost his team following a loss to Belgium to open the team's first World Cup appearance in 36 years — using colorful language that Croatia took exception to.

The 2018 runners-up responded on Sunday with a 4-1 victory over the Canadians, who were eliminated after two matches in Qatar.

"I have to say thank you to the head coach of Canada for the motivation," said Andrej Kramaric, who scored two goals on Sunday.

Alphonso Davies scored Canada's first-ever men's World Cup goal a minute into the match but Marko Livaja and Lovro Majer also scored for Croatia, which lost to France in the final four years ago in Russia and opened with a scoreless draw against Morocco.

Germany 1, Spain 1

In Al Khor, Qatar, only a win for Germany in the final group game will give the four-time World Cup champions a chance to avoid a second straight early elimination.

At least they're improving.

Substitute Niclas Füllkrug scored in the 83rd minute Sunday to give Germany a 1-1 draw against Spain at Al Bayt Stadium in one of the most anticipated matches of this year's World Cup. A loss would not have eliminated Germany, but it would have left the team in a much more difficult position.

"It was important that we got this point," Füllkrug said. "We definitely have a chance to get through to the next round now. We can now go into the last game with a good feeling and hope that everything goes well."

Germany's fate will be decided on Thursday against Costa Rica, which defeated Japan 1-0 earlier Sunday. Even a win may not be enough for the Germans, who lost to Japan in their opener and are in last place in Group E. They need the other result to go their way.

If both Germany and Spain win, both will advance. If there is a draw in the Japan-Spain match, Germany will need to overcome a goal-difference deficit against the Japanese. If Japan is victorious, then the Germans will have to top Spain — which beat Costa Rica 7-0 — on goal difference to get through.

Zubac has 31 points, 29 rebounds as Clippers beat Pacers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ivica Zubac scored a season-high 31 points and pulled down a career-best 29 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Clippers pulled away in the second half to beat the Indiana Pacers 114-100 on Sunday.

Zubac had the most rebounds in an NBA game this season and was one board away from the league's fourth 30-point/30-rebound rebound game and first since 2018 when he fouled out with 3:40 remaining.

Bucks 124, Mavericks 115

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 30 points and Milwaukee capitalized on Grayson Allen's sizzling start to hand Dallas its fourth straight loss.

Allen scored 22 points in the game's first 17 ½ minutes while shooting 7 of 7 from beyond the arc, tying his career high for 3-pointers. Allen matched the highest total for made 3-pointers in a half without any misses over the last 25 seasons, according to ESPN Stats.

Allen finished with a season-high 25 points while shooting 8 of 10 overall and 7 of 8 on 3-point attempts. The Bucks shot 55.8% overall as a team and went 17 of 37 from beyond the arc, matching a season high for 3-point baskets.

Warriors 137, Timberwolves 114

In Minneapolis, Steph Curry had 25 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, Jordan Poole pitched in 24 points off the bench and Golden State used a 47-point first quarter to spark a victory over Minnesota.

Klay Thompson went 5 for 8 from deep for 21 points and tied Joe Johnson (1,978) for 15th place on the NBA's career list for 3-pointers made for the Warriors, who raised their perplexing road record to 2-9. They've won five of their last six games overall and eight of 11.

Nets 111, Trail Blazers 94

In New York, Kevin Durant scored 31 points, Seth Curry added a season-high 29 off the bench and Brooklyn beat Portland.

Curry was 7 for 10 from 3-point range and had his highest point total with the Nets and the most by a Brooklyn reserve this season.

Kyrie Irving added 22 points for the Nets. Ben Simmons took just three shots but had 12 rebounds and eight assists.

Heat 106, Hawks 98

In Atlanta, Bam Adebayo scored 14 of his 32 points in the third quarter, Caleb Martin added 20 points and Miami snapped a seven-game road losing streak with a victory over Atlanta.

Tyler Herro had 11 points, 10 assists and 11 rebounds and Max Strus had 16 points for the Heat, who outscored Atlanta 34-21 in the third to take charge of the game. They went on a 10-2 run early in the period to make it 65-64 on Kyle Lowry's left wing 3, and Atlanta trailed the rest of the way. It was Miami's first lead since it was 3-2.

The Heat led by 14 on Martin's 3, ending a 17-6 run, with 5:45 left in the game.

Grizzlies 127, Knicks 123

In New York, Ja Morant had 27 points, 14 assists and 10 rebounds in his fifth career triple-double, and Memphis held off New York.

Morant scored 10 points in the fourth quarter, hitting the go-ahead basket after rebounding his own miss with 13.9 seconds left in regulation.

Dillon Brooks scored 23 points and Jaren Jackson Jr. added 21 for the Grizzlies, who lost a 12-point lead in the fourth quarter but recovered for their second straight victory.

Cavaliers 102, Pistons 94

In Detroit, Donovan Mitchell scored 32 points, Evan Mobley added 20 and Cleveland rallied late to beat Detroit.

Cleveland trailed for much of the game, but outscored the Pistons 29-16 in the fourth quarter.

Darius Garland added 16 points for Cleveland, which has won five of six.

Marvin Bagley III had 19 points for the Pistons, who were missing starters Bojan Bogdanovic (ankle), Jaden Ivey (knee), Isaiah Stewart (foot) and Cade Cunningham (shin).

Celtics 130, Wizards 121

In Boston, Jaylen Brown scored 36 points and Boston held off Washington.

Malcolm Brogdon added 17 points and Derrick White finished with 15 for the Celtics, who have won three straight and 12 of their last 13. It is also Boston's second win this season over Washington, which has lost its last three.

Celtics star Jayson Tatum missed his first game this season with a sprained left ankle. But his absence didn't slow down the offense, as Boston jumped out to 17-point halftime edge and grew its lead as high as 26 in the third quarter.

Bradley Beal led Washington with 30 points. Kristaps Porzingis added 21.

76ers 133, Magic 103

In Orlando, Fla., Shake Milton had 29 points and seven assists, and Philadelphia routed Orlando.

Tobias Harris added 25 points for Philadelphia, which also beat the Magic 107-99 on Friday night. Danuel House Jr. scored 19 points, and fellow reserve Paul Reed had 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Paolo Banchero led Orlando with 18 points and Franz Wagner scored 17 for the Magic, who lost their fourth straight.

Run Saipan unveils calendar of events for 2023

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Run Saipan members pose for a photo after the 2022 Saipan Half Marathon last April. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The only established premier running club in the CNMI, Run Saipan, is running toward 2023 with a year-long calendar of events.

Run Saipan is starting the year off with a new three-day race—Run Saipan Trinity 2023—from Saturday, Jan. 14, through Monday, Jan. 16. The location will cover any of the underground series locations which won't be confirmed until next year.

Brain-child of Run Saipan board member Dr. Ron Snyder, the race will consist of a 5K and 10K—not in that order and will span the three days. Runners can choose not to run on all race days and will receive an event medal for each race joined and an event shirt. A commemoration medal will be given to those who complete all three races.

Next up on Feb. 18 is the 3rd Annual Marianas Ekiden which is a 21-kilometer relay from Micro Beach in Garapan to just before Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio and back.

In the month of March there will be the 2nd Annual CHCC Happy Hearts 5K on March 24, which will be from the Garapan Fishing Base where participants will head south to just past the Japanese Tank Memorial along Quartermaster Road and back.

Run Saipan and Run Guam will come together for a Run Guam and Run Saipan 5K race on April 15 in which Guam will be running the Ypao through the Tumon pathway route and Run Saipan will run through one of the old underground routes.

The month of May brings two races—the ever-popular with Star Wars fans 3rd Annual Star Wars Day Race "Revenge of the 6th" on May 6 and the 3rd Annual Mangrove 5K on May 27.

The beginning of summer is marked by the 2nd Annual Grotto 10K on June 3, which will start at the Grotto in an out and back in semi-flat course.

July will see the 3rd Annual Latte Built Independence Day 2 Miler on July 4, which will be from the Garapan Fishing Base to National Office Supply and back.

In August will be the 2nd Annual Beer Mile on Aug. 4, which coincides with International Beer Day and will be held at the Saipan Vegas Resort golf course.

For September, there will be the 3rd Annual Salty Skin 5K to be held on Sep. 16, with the course to be determined.

The spooky season of October will bring the inaugural Zombie Run 5K on Oct. 27, which will be along Capitol Hill, Wireless Ridge area.

The month of November will see the 2nd Annual Saipan International Airport 8K Trail Run and the Inaugural Veterans Day 5K on Nov. 11.

The last month of the year will see the 2nd Annual Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon + Atkins Kroll 5K on Dec. 2. The Holiday Half Marathon is a point-to-point 21K race from Sugar Dock to Banzai Cliff in Saipan.

The year will end with a bang just as explosive as the beginning of the year with the 3rd Annual Run from '23 1 Mile Road Race Championship on Dec. 31 from the southbound lane of Beach Road next to the World War II Tank Memorial along Quartermaster Road.

Officially founded in 2020 by president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Run Saipan was established as a nonprofit organization in 2021.

Run Saipan seeks to promote a healthy lifestyle in the CNMI by supporting community projects such as regular 5K races, running and nutrition workshops, sending athletic ambassadors to the schools, and working with Northern Marianas Athletics to increase the opportunities for cardiovascular health available to all residents in the Commonwealth, regardless of running ability or experience.

Dela Cruz said, "I would like to thank personally on behalf of the Run Saipan board for our partners that make our events possible at every race: The Department of Public Safety, Northern Marianas Athletics, Saipan International School, Marianas Visitors Authority. They were the constant support organizations that made our races even possible. Without their continued support we wouldn't be able to have safe and successful events without them. Thank you all so much. Going into 2023 we wish for their continued support. Special thanks to Saipan Tribune, Marianas Variety, and KSPN for the hard working reporters getting our story out there. To all our title sponsors who confirmed for the upcoming 2023 year thank you for partnering with us again and believing in us: Latte Built, Salty Skin Pacific, MARPAC, CHCC, and Atkins Kroll."

He also reminds those who want to join the races that all registrations will be done online at https://raceroster.com/.

They will not be accepting cash unless it's for the membership application. Race events we will not be doing in-person race day registration. Payment and registration for all our events will be strictly online.

Run Saipan membership is $50 for adults and $25 for high school students or younger and the 2023 membership applications will be handed out at the 2022 Run Saipan Marathon finish line.

NMI

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minute for a close 3-2 game, but they were eventually silenced and in the end, settled for the loss.

In the second game day, the NMI girls almost emerged with a win, but they settled for a draw of 2-2 instead, as the last attempt at the goal by NMI's Ye Lynn Han wasn't counted due to it being scored offside—as she was past the last Guam defender.

Han scored the NMI's two goals—one shy of completing her foiled hat-trick and tie-breaking attempt in the last minute of the game, while Meria Harmon and Kathryn Ann Wong scored the two goals for Guam.

After the game, Mae Ito, head coach for the NMI U14 team, said that it was a fun experience and a great opportunity to have had play experience against Guam and that they are hoping to continue this type of play—especially seeing that there hasn't been much international competitions for girls in the U14 and U17 age group.

"The pandemic was also a very big challenge for us as well; Regardless, I feel this camaraderie between Guam and NMI will be a good platform for our U14 girls and boys now, especially when youth in both islands are very eager to really try to improve and develop our younger boys and girls, so that they could have a better idea of how it is to compete outside. So hopefully we can develop, improve, and grow from here," said Ito.

Chyna Ramirez, head coach for Guam U14 Girls Academy, said that their team is a fairly young group consisting of 10-, 11-, and 12-year-olds, "but this group shows a lot of promise."

This was the first time GFA had brought out a group this young to compete and Ramirez said that with the matches, it was a "great experience… The competition is great for them. It's great to challenge players who are better than you or taller than you–who are stronger than you because internationally you're always [going to] have that… So for them, if you can't beat them in the air, beat them on the ground—be more technically sound, be a smarter player, understand principles."

"This is a great start for women's development for the next 10 years for Guam football, and we're looking to continue this kind of relationship with the NMIFA and GFA so we can grow together in the Marianas and have football to be grown at a higher level– especially in women's football," added the 26-year-old former Guam National soccer player.

Lastly, Ramirez thanked NMIFA for hosting them, GFA for allowing them to bring the girls out, and her team of coaching staff who traveled to Saipan with her—coach Joe Roberto, media officer Jill Espiritu, coach Hannah Cruz, and coach Keleko Fejeran, along with coach Kiarra Hutcherson, who couldn't make it Saipan, and two who are not coaches anymore but helped the team—Sakiko Ogura and Isabella Bass.

The Guam U14 team consists of Gabriella Edwards, Kahlan Hancock, Jady Elora Raval, Kelly Cho, Melody Cho, Elyse Concepcion, Fejera Cruz, Kirra Cruz, Marion Finney, Lilah-Reese Finona, Meria "Melu" Harmon, Chloe Laxamana, Aliana Meno, Gifty Merrill, Charlie Mesa, Julia Perez-Jackson, Aeva Sablan, and Kathryn Wong.

The NMI U14 team consists of Hailey Benavente, Aubrey White, Cassidee Flores, Ye Lynn Han, Taliana McClure, Kay Anne Costales, Angel Calayag, Elyza Brillo, Jade Pascual, Ellie Iglecias, Breannie Echalico, Rosie Saralu, Alyza De Belen, Alyssa Borlongan, Alana Hayes, Stacy Arriloa, Selena Atalig, Althea De Belen, Amber Than, and Vanessa Bayog.

LANCE

From Page 20

ro, who averaged 20.5 points per game and playmaker Mike Mercado Jr. for his leadership.

"I also want to acknowledge Michael Mercado Jr. for being the team captain who held a firm voice in the locker room, encouraging and keeping the squad together during the hard times they encountered," he said of his son.

NMI girls U15 national team head coach Marlene Lumabi, meanwhile, said the 6'0" Fatialofa showed her potential during the Guam tourney.

"I had a couple girls who stepped up but our captain Azriel was one of our best performers. She kept encouraging her teammates and stepped up her leadership skills. She not only was a leader but a beast! She hustled when she needed to and kept the team afloat."

Fatialofa finished second in the team in scoring behind Kaitlyn Chavez (21.8 ppg) at 20.5 ppg but led the team in rebounds at 18 rebounds per game.

Lumabi also thanked the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation for facilitating their participation in the FIBA U15 Oceania Championship Guam 2022.

"I'd like to thank the federation for giving me the opportunity to coach our U15 girls, our supporters, my athletes for finishing strong, and my fellow coaches for helping me guide our athletes," she said.

AIMELIIK

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Peleliu's Cartfield Sablan scored the team's third run in the fourth inning. However, that was the extent of Peleliu's run as Aimeliik pitcher Ken Kaipat shut down Peleliu's offense in the last two innings to secure the victory, 14-3.

Man Amigos scored the same number of runs as Aimeliik with 14, but Redmen scored just four runs.

Amigos pitcher Derron Flores shut down the Redmen's offense in five scoreless innings and went red in their faces after being unable to hit against the NMI Baseball National Team head coach.

The only time the Redmen pierced through the veil of unhittable pitches was in the fifth inning after Mike Tomokane, Jaime Reyes, Greg Magofna, and John Taitano scored their team's only four runs.

On the same day, a men's and women's division home run derby was held; results of the home run derby will be posted in the next editions of *Saipan Tribune.*

The playoffs are scheduled for Friday, Dec. 4, starting with a women's division game between Queens of Diamond vs. Kosebakl at 9am; Sufa vs. Momma Charo at 10am; Tokahao vs Peleliu at 11am; Man Amigos vs. Asahi at 12pm; Hagu Lamun vs. Ngaraard Redmen at 1pm; and another women's game featuring Hot Shots vs. Lady Eagles at 2pm.

Jacobs' 86-yard run in OT gives Raiders win vs. Seahawks

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NMI U14 girls win and draws vs Guam

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
NMI U14 Girls team and Guam's U14 Girls Academy pose with their coaches after their two friendly matches last weekend at the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

LEIGH GASES
NMI U14's Ye Lynn Ha, in blue, scored two goals in the second friendly match against Guam's U14 girls academy last Sunday at the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
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In a series of friendly matches between the Northern Marianas Football Association and the Guam Football Association, the NMI U14 girls won a game and settled for a draw in the other against Guam's U14 girls last Saturday and Sunday at the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Saturday morning's island weather brought families of both teams out to the pitch to witness and support the first game between NMI's U14 girls and Guam's U14 girls, with the home team slipping past the visitors by a goal, 3-2.

NMI's Alyssa Borlongan outsprinted her defender as she drew first blood in the 11th minute and not 10 minutes later, slipped past the goalie once more for an early 2-0 lead.

The younger Guam team, which consisted of mostly 12 year-olds or younger, were slightly overpowered on the field as the NMI girls cranked up the pressure to delay their first goal to the 26th minute of the second half—courtesy of Sunyul "Melody" Cho.

The NMI's third goal was scored by Ye Lynn Ha in the 30th minute to give them a 3-1 lead, which proved enough to seal the win.

Guam's Kathryn Ann Wong quickly retaliated in the 32nd

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Aimeliik, Man Amigos batter foes in makeup games

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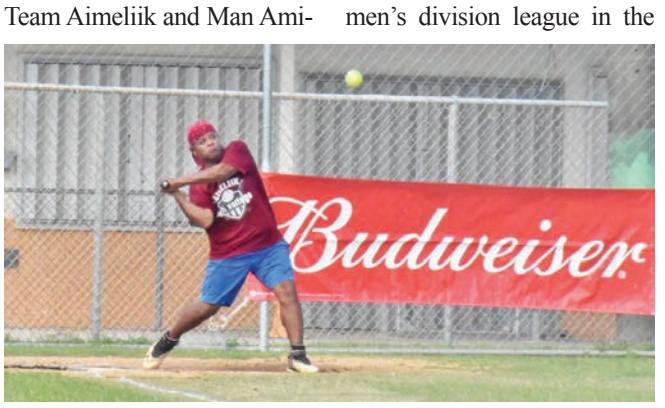
Team Aimeliik and Man Amigos battered Peleliu and Ngaraard Redmen, respectively, in final makeup games of the men's division league in the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.



LEIGH GASES
Aimeliik pitcher Ken Kaipat went 3-for-4 at bat and shut down Peleliu in four innings during their makeup game in the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball field.

Aimeliik went up first against Peleliu and edged them out, 14-3, while Man Amigos thumped the Redmen, 14-4.

Chuezon Martin led Aimeliik with a grand slam home run in the fourth inning for a seven run inning and completed the game with four RBIs.

At this point, Aimeliik already had a 12-3 lead after

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Lance, Azriel hailed for performances in Guam

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Lance Lerio and Azriel Fatialofa were the top performers for the NMI in the recently concluded FIBA U15 Oceania Championship Guam 2022.

The NMI boys U15 national team manager Mike Mercado praised the 5'9" Lerio for his all-around performance in the six-day Guam tourney.

"Our biggest performer was Lance Lerio. He was the most efficient player all around, the rest of the boys contributed as well whether on the court or locker room leadership, he said.

In four games, Lerio averaged 17.5 points per game and 15 rebounds. He also saved his best for last, firing 21 points and grabbing 21 rebounds in their narrow 1-point loss to Papua New Guinea in the classification game.

Mercado also gave a nod to top scorer Christian Luce-

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Fatialofa

Lerio